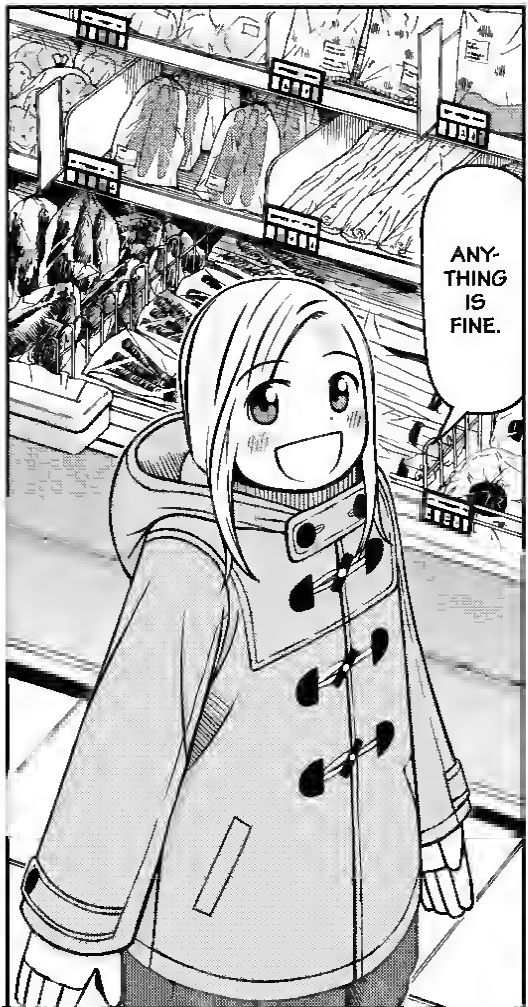
CHAPTER 63

WRAP AND FRY

A HAPPY TIME FILLED WITH DELICIOUSNESS SPENT COOKING, EATING, AND FEEDING OTHERS.

FRESH MARKET
しんせん市場

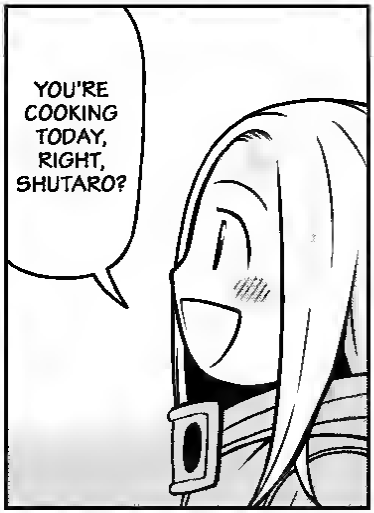

ANY-THING IS FINE.

NINA. .
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANNA EAT TONIGHT?
THOUGH SPRING IS STILL FAR AWAY IN KITA-KARUIZAWA, NINA AND SHUTARO HAVE HAPPILY GONE SHOPPING TOGETHER.

?
THAT'S THE WORST ANSWER YOU COULD HAVE GIVEN.

OKAY, NINA WILL HELP YOU COOK.
HUH?

YEAH, MOM'S GOT A NEIGHBOR-HOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING, SO SHE'LL BE HOME LATE


YOU'RE COOKING TODAY, RIGHT, SHUTARO?

GYOZA VEGETABLE SET
ぎょうざ用野菜セット
198
野菜炒めセット
HM.

A DISH YOU CAN HELP ME COOK...
HUH.

I'VE GOT IT!
LET'S MAKE GYOZA TONIGHT.
GYOZA?

YOU MEAN THOSE FROZEN THINGS?
GYOZA AREN'T ALWAYS FROZEN.

CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
SO YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE GYOZA BY YOURSELF, HUH?
OF COURSE.
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD WHEN YOU MAKE THEM YOURSELF
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
BUT WE'LL BE USING STORE-BOUGHT WRAPPERS TODAY.
なんか つるつるしてる
THEY'RE REALLY SMOOTH

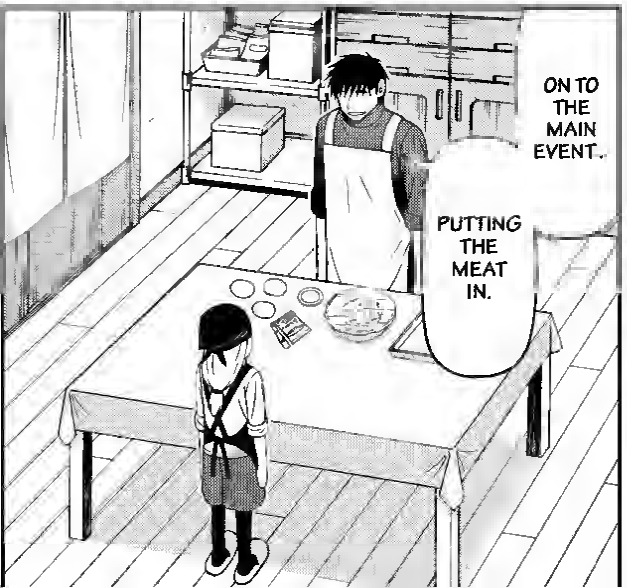
WHICH LEAVES...
THIS SHOULD DO IT FOR THE CABBAGE.
WAIT, GARLIC?
I GUESS I'LL LEAVE THE GARLIC OUT.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE EATING THEM...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
WELL, NINA REALLY LOVES GARLIC CHASHU RAMEN.
IT'LL MAKE YOUR BREATH SMELL LIKE GARLIC, SO ARE YOU SURE?
LEAVE THE GARLIC IN

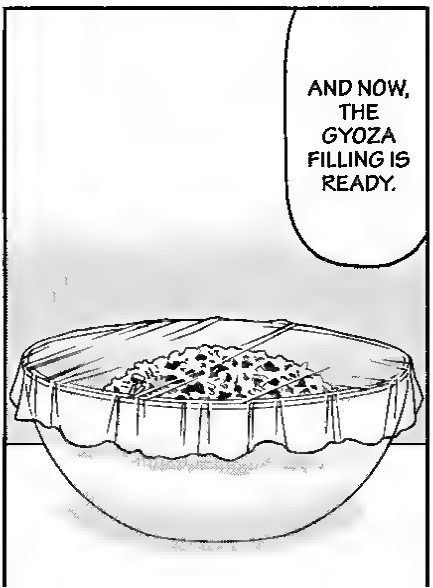
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH

HEY.
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT COOKING, SHUTARO
I ALWAYS COOKED FOR MYSELF WHEN I LIVED IN TOKYO.
PLUS, I LOVE TO COOK.
ALWAYS COOKING FOR MYSELF MEANT THAT EVEN WHEN I LOST MY JOB, I WAS STILL ABLE TO EAT.
?

DO YOU WANNA GIVE IT A TRY, NINA?
SURE.

HOLD THE BOWL TIGHTLY WITH YOUR LEFT HAND.
LIKE THIS?
YES, LIKE THAT.


ON TO THE MAIN EVENT.
PUTTING THE MEAT IN.


AND NOW, THE GYOZA FILLING IS READY.

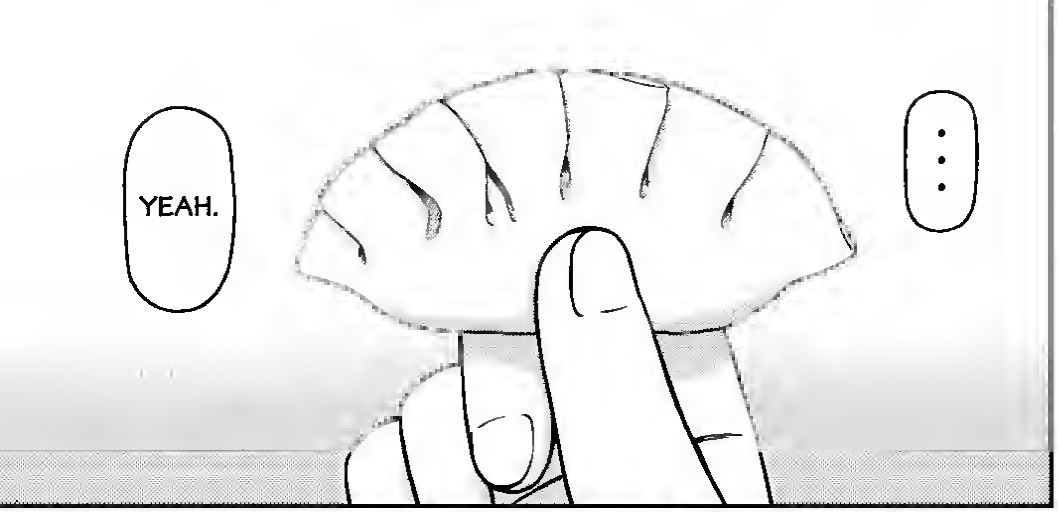
PUT ABOUT THIS MUCH FILLING IN THE MIDDLE OF A WRAPPER.
FIRST...
HERE, WATCH CAREFULLY.
GENTLY FOLD IT IN HALF...
THEN, PUT WATER AROUND THE EDGES
YOU START FOLDING THEM, LIKE SO...
NEXT...
...AND STICK THE EDGES TOGETHER.

OOOH!
...AND YOU'LL THEN HAVE YOURSELF A GYOZA.
YOU WANNA TRY, NINA?
YEAH.
I'LL WATCH OVER YOUR SHOULDER.
OKAY.
IT REALLY IS A GYOZA.
HOW COOL.
RIGHT?

UM,
NINA PUT THE FILLING IN...
PUT WATER ON THE WRAPPER.
FOLD IT IN HALF...
YOU START FOLDING OVER THE EDGES
NOW WHAT?
HUH?
WHAT?
N-
NINA DOES NOT GET IT!
SHUTARO, DO IT ONE MORE TIME.
DO IT SLOWER THIS TIME, 'KAY?
ALL RIGHT, OKAY.

FIRST, YOU GO LIKE THIS.
IT'LL BE EASIER TO UNDER-STAND IF WE DO IT AT EYE LEVEL, RIGHT?
YEAH.
OH.
YOU FOLD IT LIKE THIS.
YUP.
EASY, RIGHT?
...AND NOW WE'RE DONE, SEE?

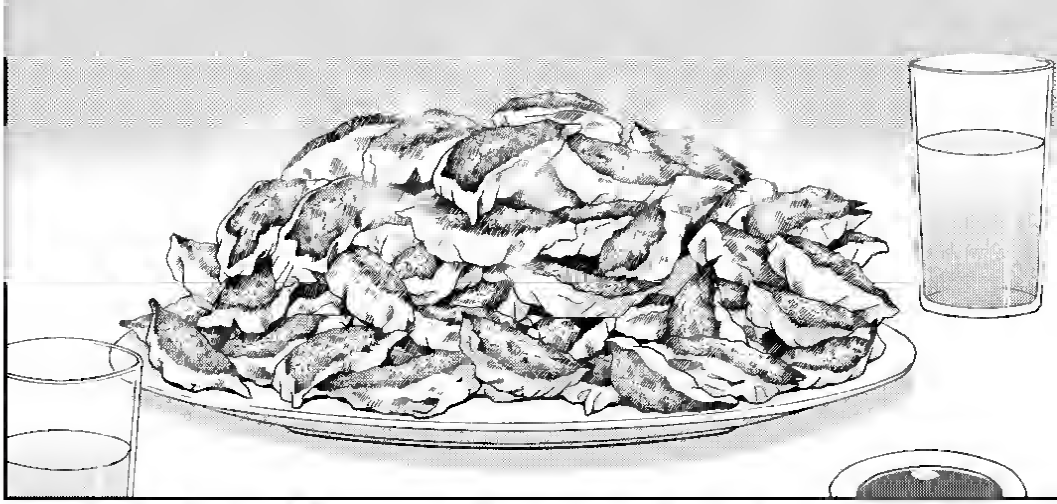
YOU CAN DO IT.
OKAY, NINA WILL TRY AGAIN.
...
IT'S HARD.
CLOSE!


YEAH.
...

SHUTARO, NINA'S HUNGRY
OKAY, LET'S HURRY UP AND COOK THEM.

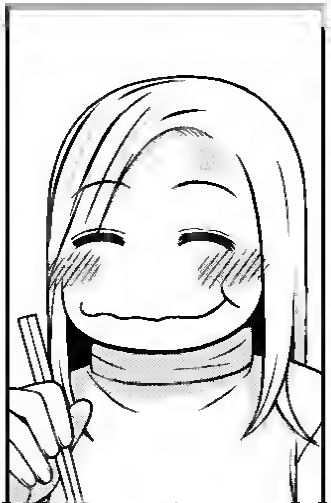
GROWL

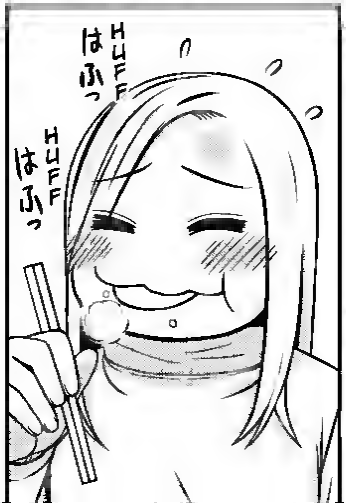
LOOKS GOOD!
REALLY?

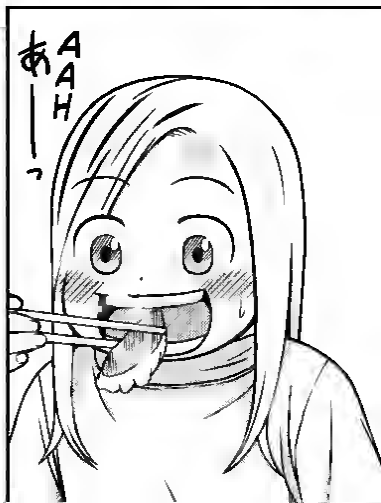


THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
いただきます
THANKS FOR THE FOOD

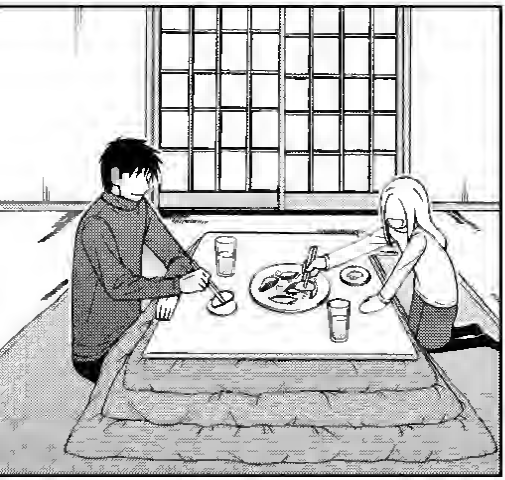
OH WELL...
まあいいか…
WE MIGHT'VE MADE TOO MANY..
IT SMELLS SO GOOD!



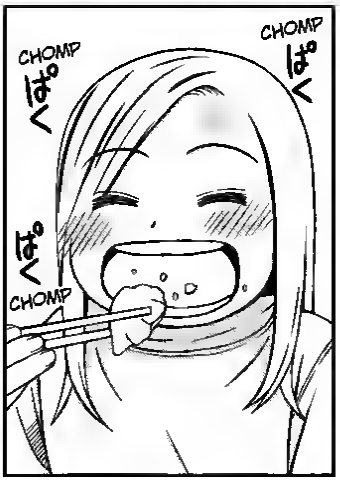

HUFF
はふっ
HUFF
はふっ

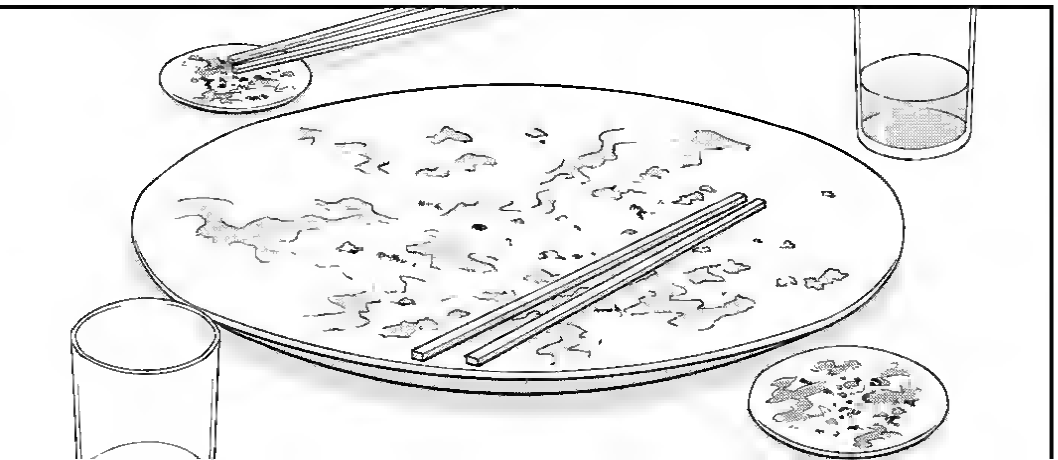

AAH
あーっ

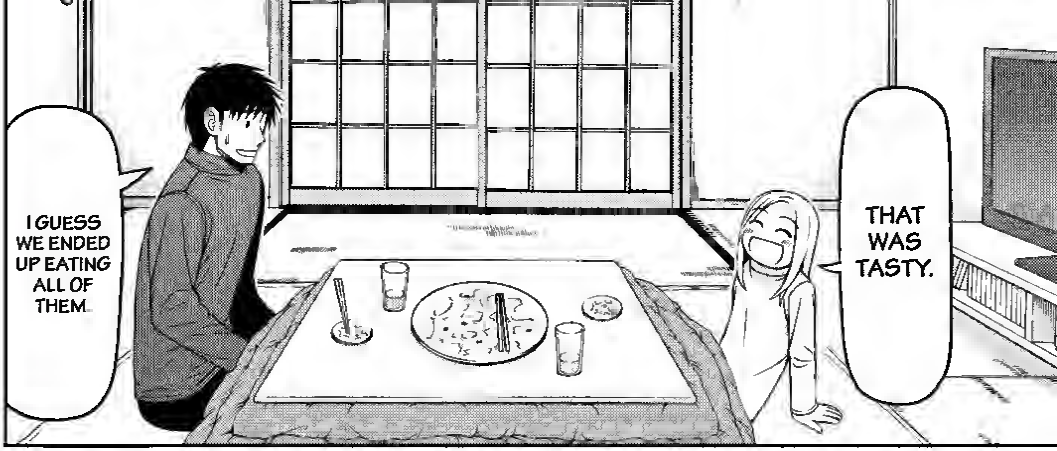
SO GOOD!
YEAH?

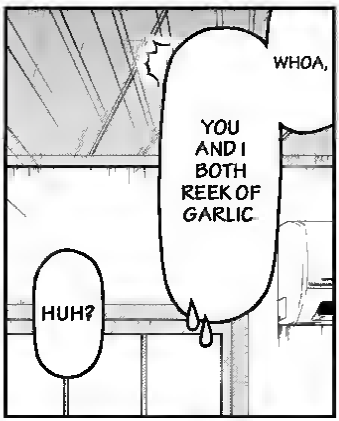


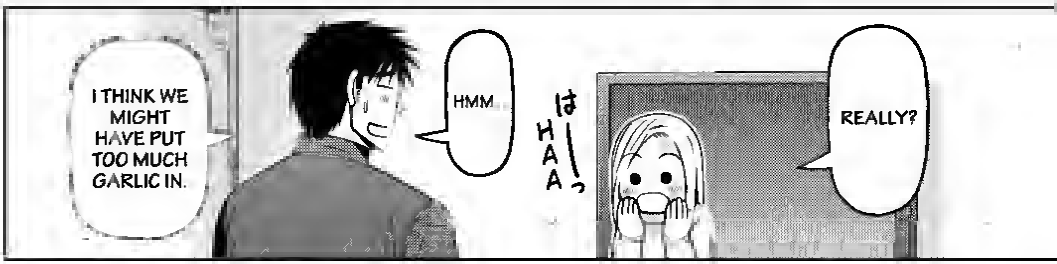
PRETTY GREAT
こりゃウマい
YUP.
うん

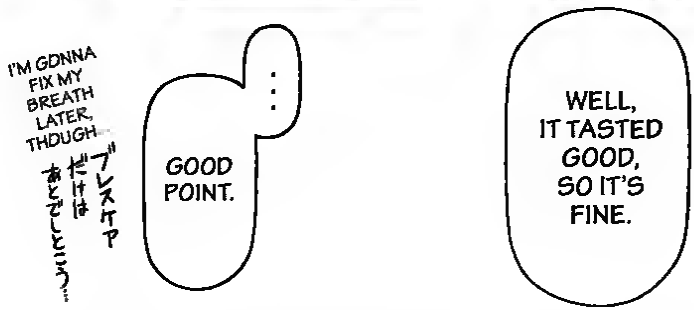

CHOMP
ぱく
CHOMP
ぱく
CHOMP
ぱく











YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT TOMORROW!

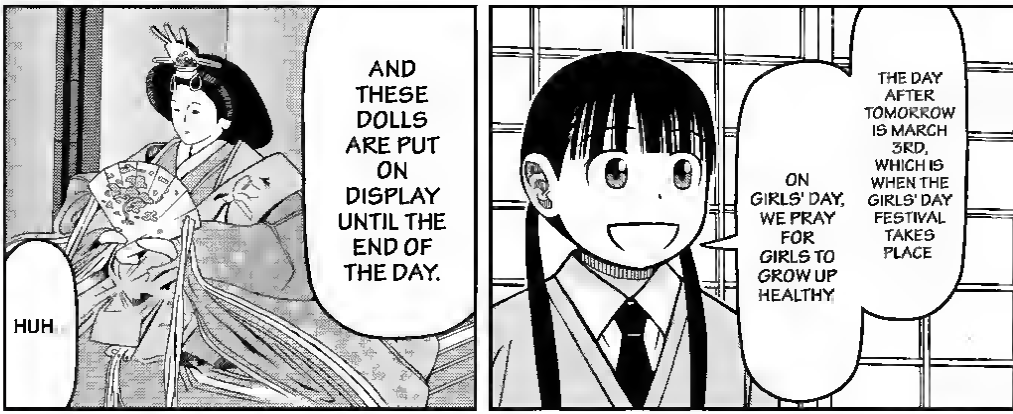
CHAPTER 64

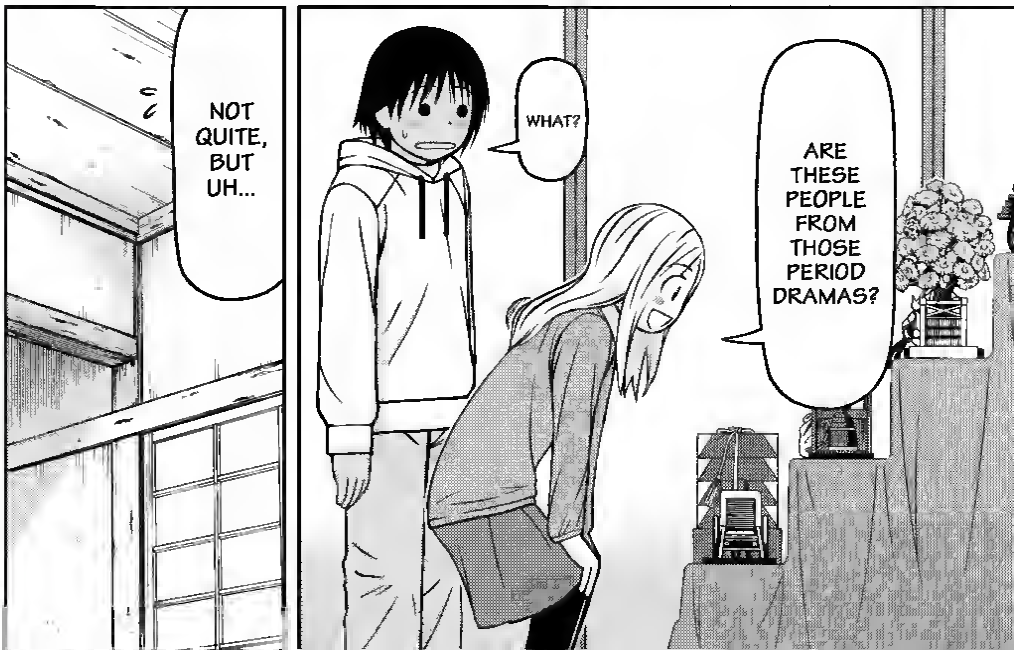
FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER

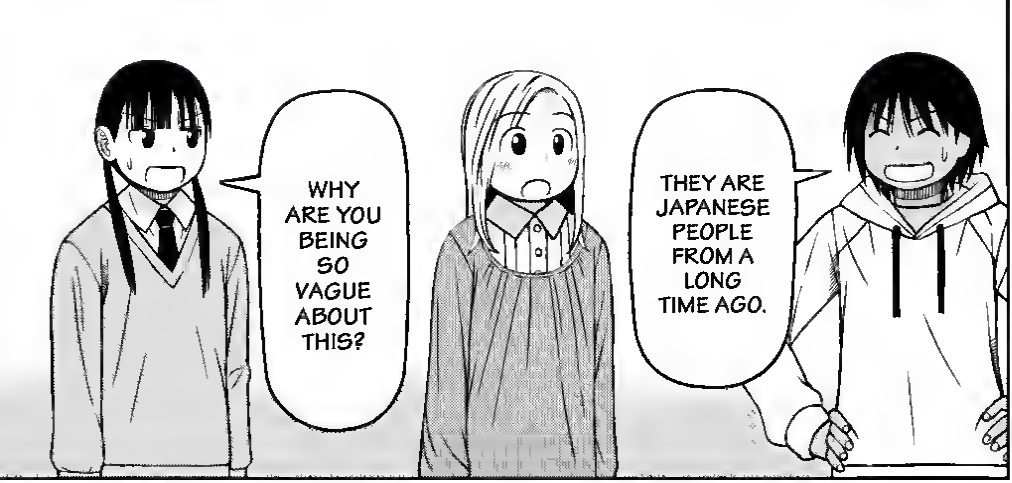
TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF A NEW VOLUME, TODAY'S TITLE PAGE IS IN COLOR, AND FEATURES NINA'S BEAUTIFUL 12-LAYER KIMONO!

WHAT IS THIS?
WE'RE AT ARISA-CHAN'S HOUSE...
WOW!
STAR

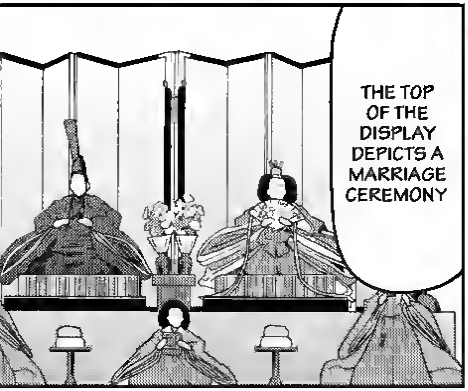
WAIT, NINA,
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN GIRLS' DAY DOLLS BEFORE?
GIRLS' DAY DOLLS?

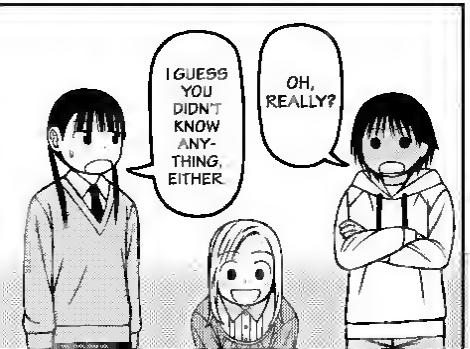

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS MARCH 3RD, WHICH IS WHEN THE GIRLS' DAY FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE
ON GIRLS' DAY, WE PRAY FOR GIRLS TO GROW UP HEALTHY
AND THESE DOLLS ARE PUT ON DISPLAY UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY.
HUH


ARE THESE PEOPLE FROM THOSE PERIOD DRAMAS?
WHAT?
NOT QUITE, BUT UH...

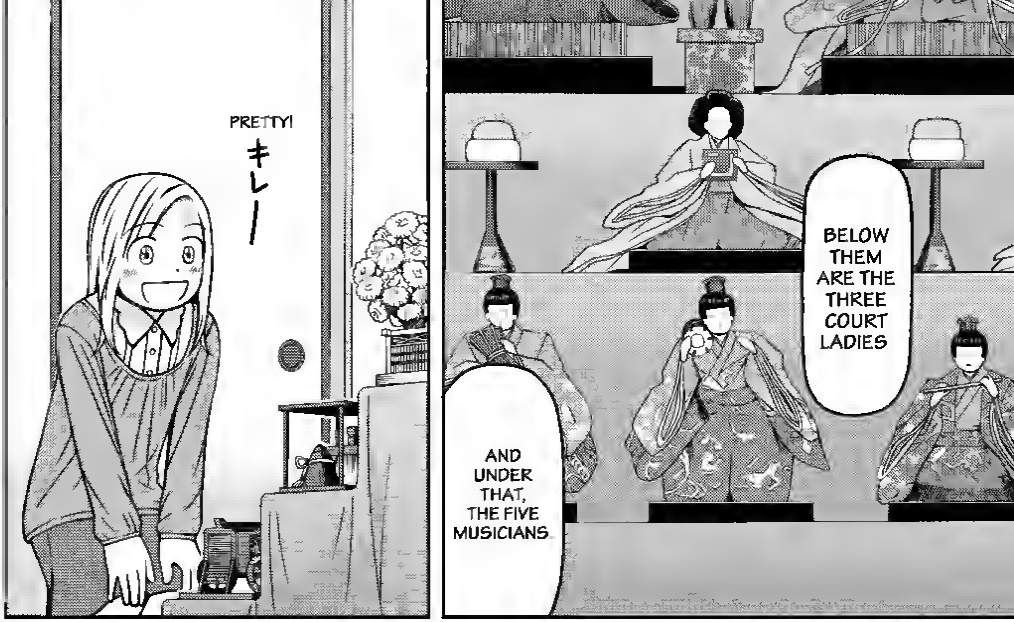

THEY ARE JAPANESE PEOPLE FROM A LONG TIME AGO.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO VAGUE ABOUT THIS?

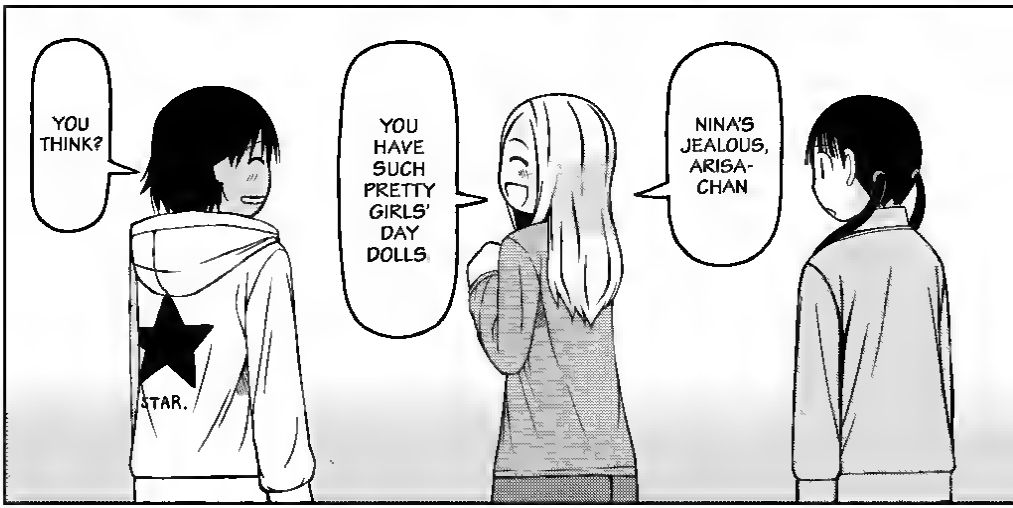
IT WAS MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO
WHAT, THAT LONG AGO?
IT HASN'T COME UP IN CLASS YET
そんなのまだ授業でならってないぞ


THE TOP OF THE DISPLAY DEPICTS A MARRIAGE CEREMONY


OH, REALLY?
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, EITHER.

THESE PEOPLE PROBABLY REPRESENT ROYALTY FROM THE HEIAN PERIOD
HEY, N?
ヘーアン?

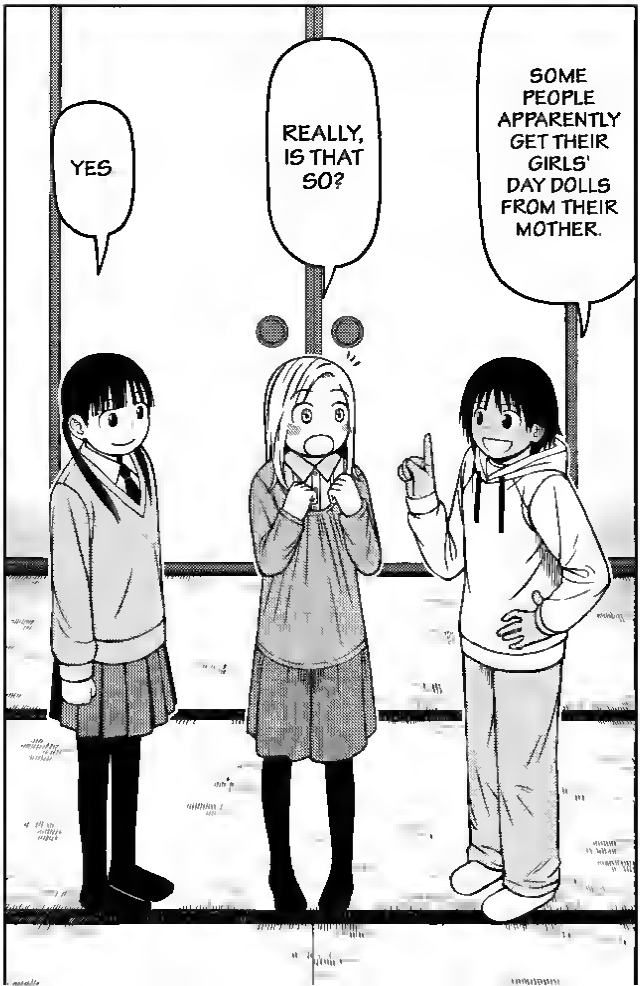

PRETTY!
キレー
BELOW THEM ARE THE THREE COURT LADIES
AND UNDER THAT, THE FIVE MUSICIANS


YOU THINK?
YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY GIRLS' DAY DOLLS
NINA'S JEALOUS, ARISA-CHAN
STAR.

NINA WANTS SOME, TOO
OURS IS MUCH SMALLER, BUT YES
DO YOU HAVE SOME TOO, MAKOTO-CHAN?

MAYBE YOUR MOTHER'S GIRLS' DAY DOLLS ARE AT YOUR HOUSE, SHIMAZAKI-SAN.
MY MAMA'S?
YEAH.

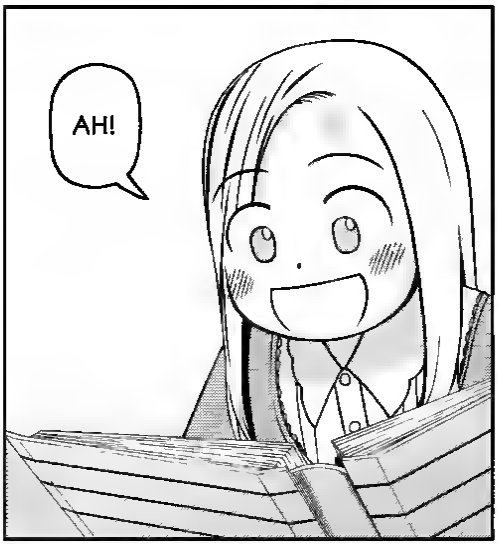
IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOUR MOTHER HAD THE DOLLS
YEAH

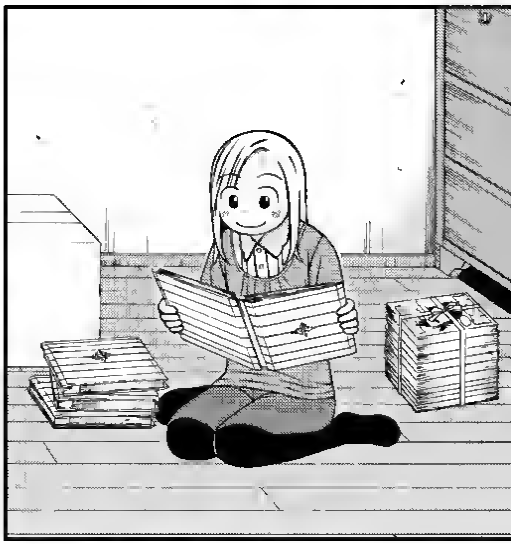

SOME PEOPLE APPARENTLY GET THEIR GIRLS' DAY DOLLS FROM THEIR MOTHER.
REALLY, IS THAT SO?
YES

NEE-CHAN'S GIRLS' DAY DOLLS?
OH MY, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THOSE
I WONDER WHERE I PUT THEM
HMM
AREN'T THEY IN THE CLOSET IN THE ROOM NINA IS USING NOW?
MAMA HAD DOLLS?
YEP,
AND THEY WERE PRETTY GRAND
HM,
SHUTARO, CAN YOU CHECK IF THEY'RE IN THE CLOSET LATER?
SURE

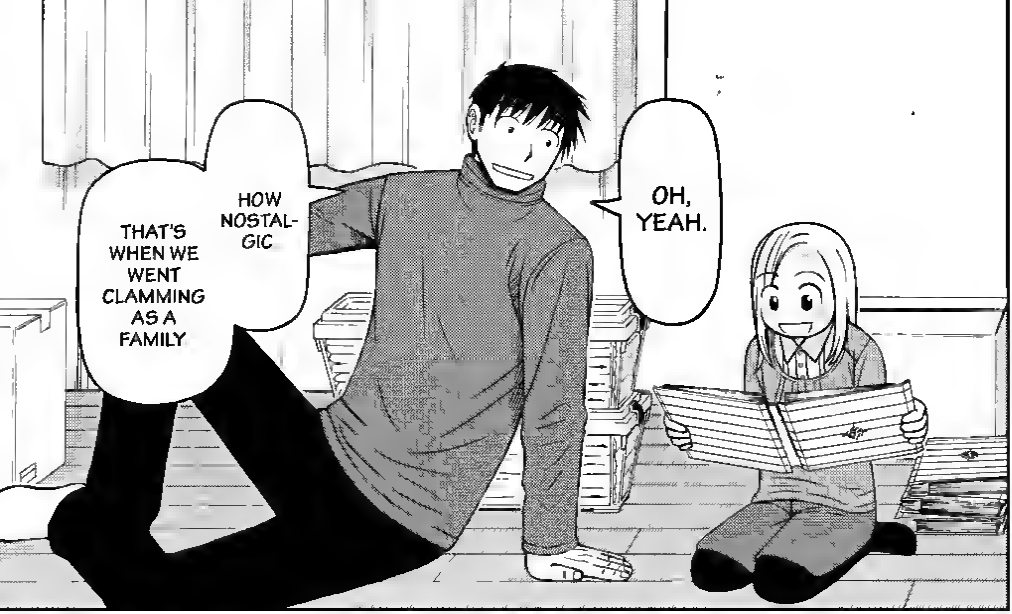
NINA
HMM
SHUTARO, DID YOU FIND THEM?
I DON'T SEE THEM...

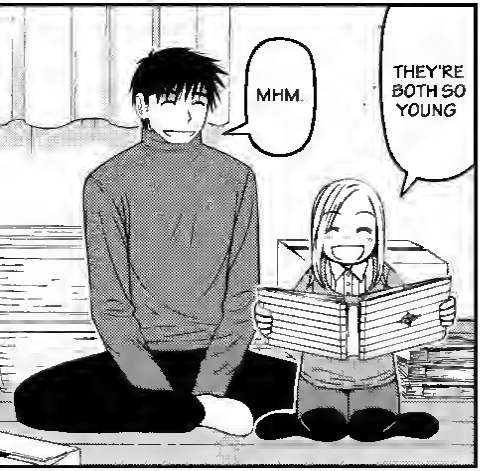
IF THOSE ARE NEE-CHAN'S ALBUMS, SURE, I DON'T MIND
HEY, SHUTARO, CAN NINA LOOK AT THESE?


AH!



LET ME SEE...
THIS IS YOU AND MAMA, RIGHT?
SO CUTE!


THAT'S WHEN WE WENT CLAMMING AS A FAMILY
HOW NOSTAL-GIC
OH, YEAH.

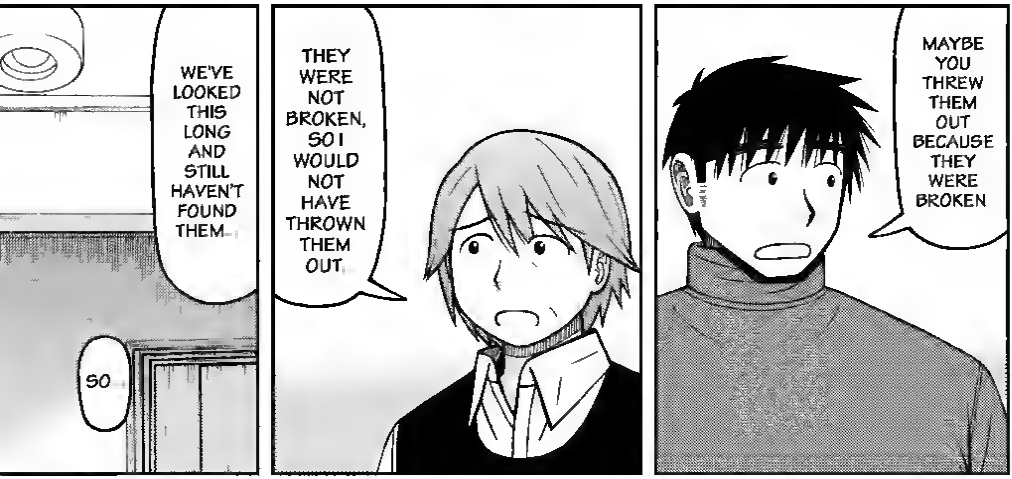

MHM.
THEY'RE BOTH SO YOUNG

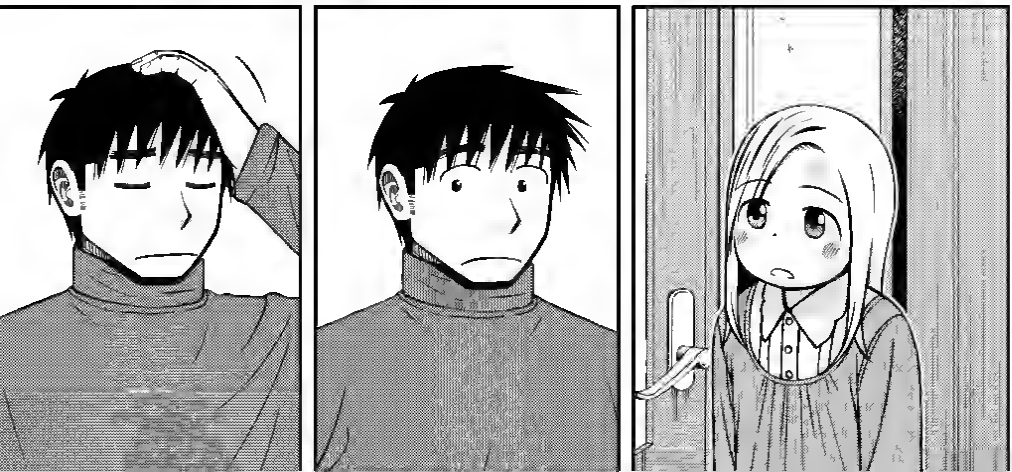
...

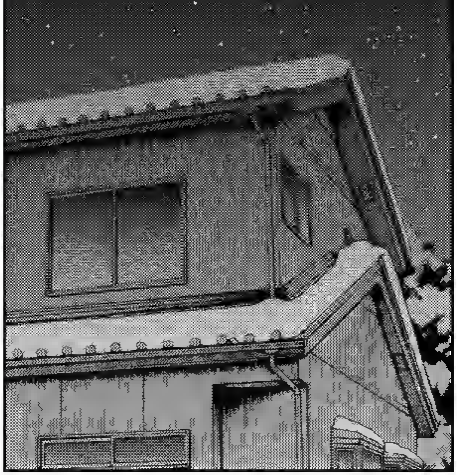
THAT'S GRANDMA AND GRANDPA, RIGHT?

CRAP.
I STILL HAVE TO FIND THE GIRLS' DAY DOLLS
...
HMM.

HOW ODD
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE VERY EASY TO LOSE SOME-THING SO LARGE
MAYBE THEY WERE GIVEN TO SOME-ONE?
I DIDN'T GIVE THEM AWAY

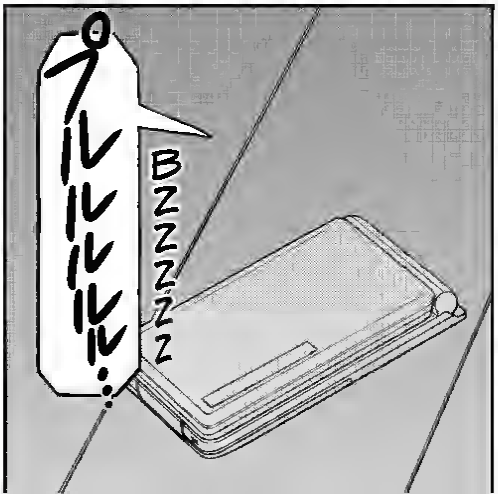

MAYBE YOU THREW THEM OUT BECAUSE THEY WERE BROKEN
THEY WERE NOT BROKEN, SO I WOULD NOT HAVE THROWN THEM OUT
WE'VE LOOKED THIS LONG AND STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THEM
SO





I'LL CHECK AGAIN IN THE MORNING.
PLEASE DO

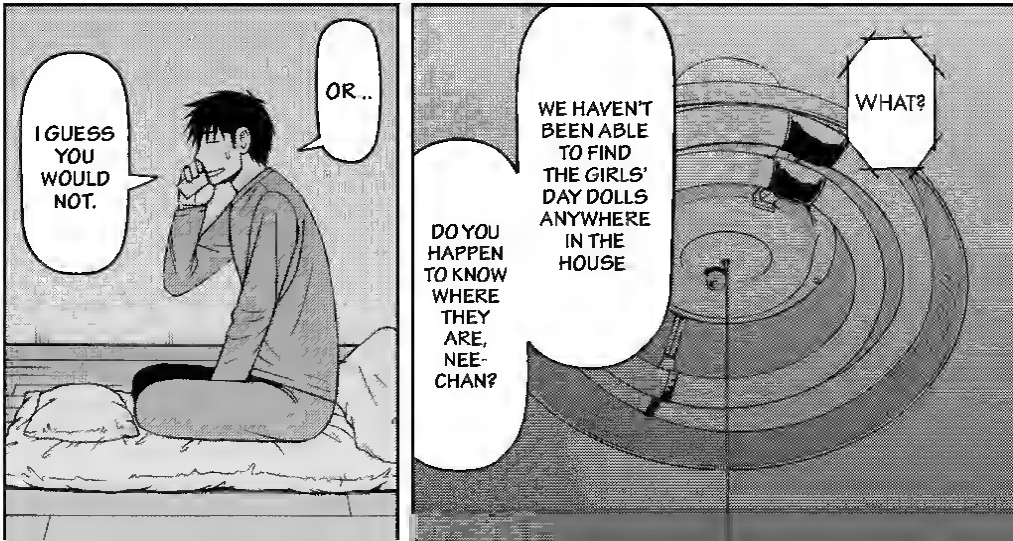
IF WE DON'T FIND THEM...
I'LL JUST BUY NEW ONES FOR HER.


プルルルル!
BZZZZZ

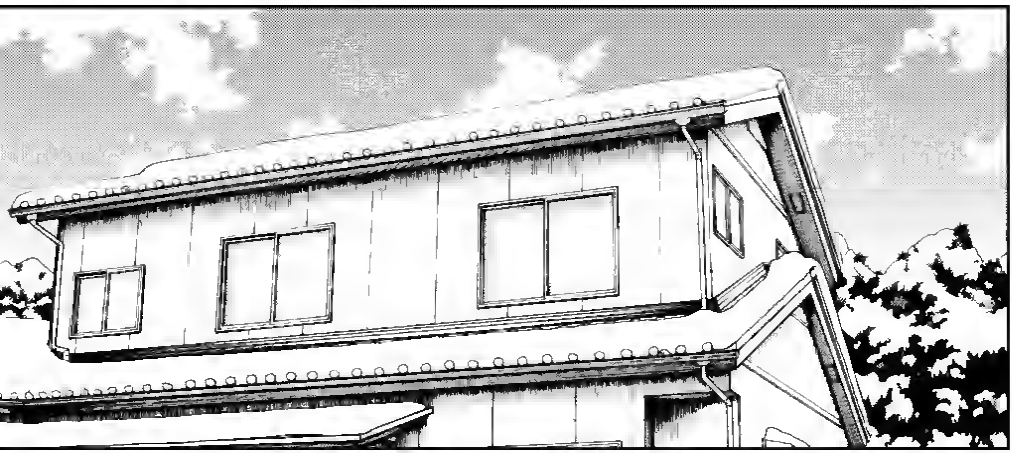
HELLO?
WHO COULD BE CALLING AT THIS HOUR?
プルルルル…
BZZZZZ
OH, IT'S YOU, NEE-CHAN
ARE YOU AWAKE, SHUTARO?
IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING OVER HERE…
AHAHA, SORRY.
IT'S STILL ONLY 8 OVER HERE.
SO, WHAT IS IT?
OH, RIGHT.
COULD YOU SEND ME A PHOTO OF NINA WITH MY GIRLS' DAY DOLLS?
DID SHE LIKE THEM?

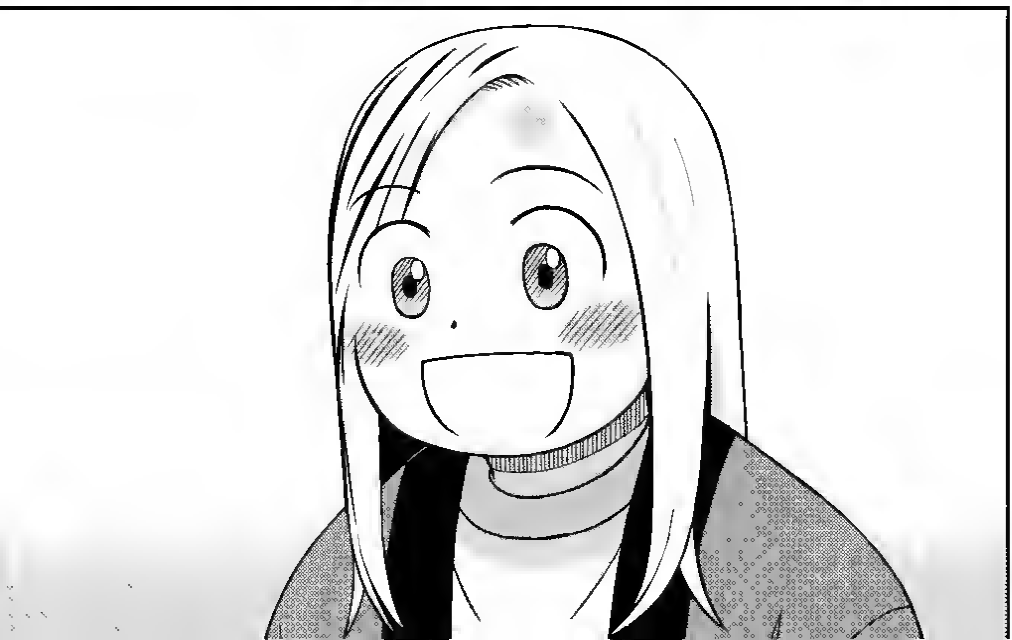
I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO SEE
THE SMILE ON NINA'S FACE.
HUH?
OH,
ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT.

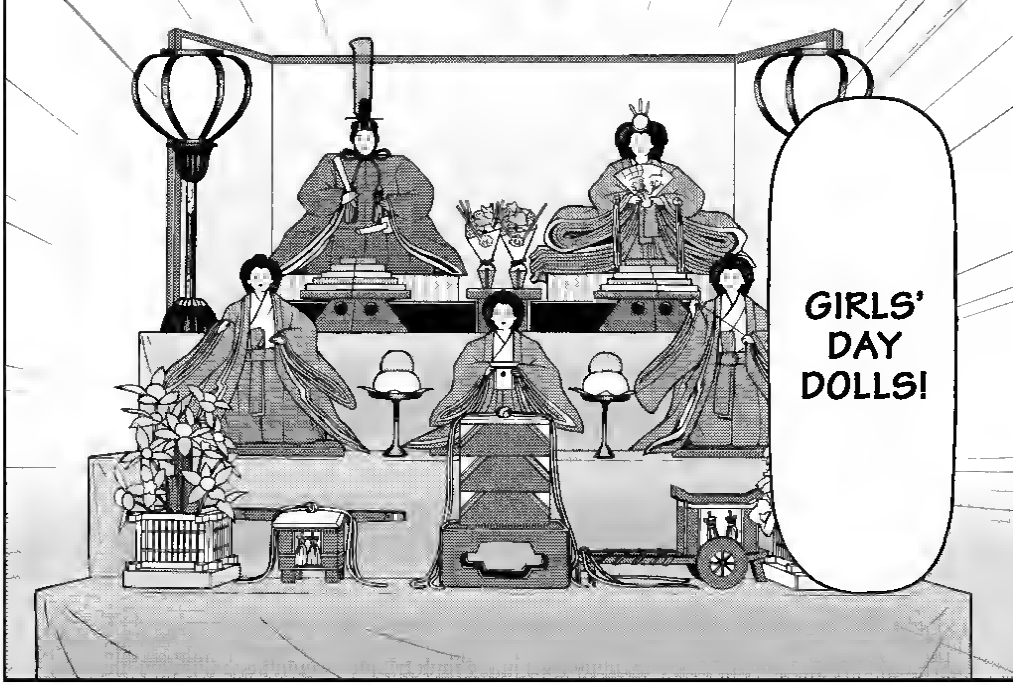
I'M SO BUSY RIGHT NOW,
I HAVE NOT EVEN HAD TIME TO SKYPE.
CAN YOU LET ME SPEAK FOR A SEC?


WHAT?
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND THE GIRLS' DAY DOLLS ANYWHERE IN THE HOUSE
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, NEE-CHAN?
OR ..
I GUESS YOU WOULD NOT.

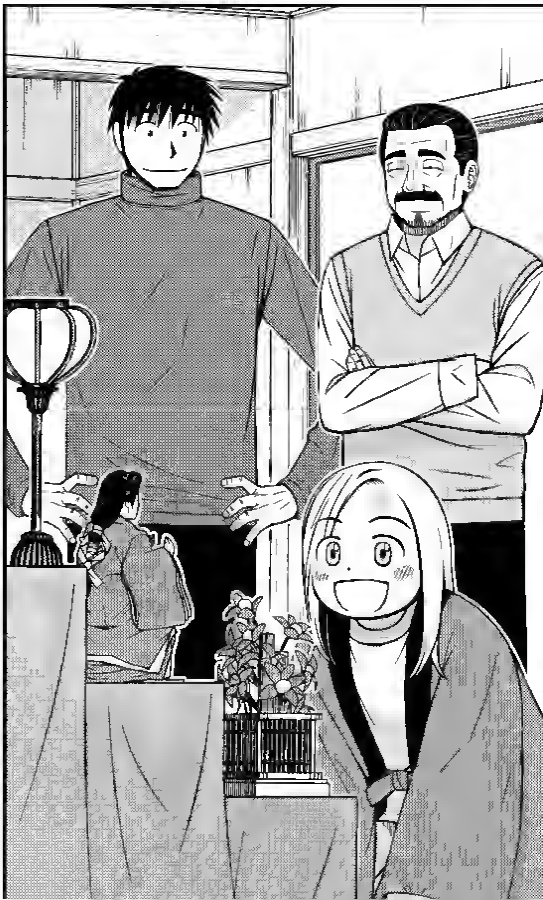
HUH?
DAD?
I ASKED DAD TO TAKE THEM OUT FOR ME.
WAIT, WHAT THE HECK?



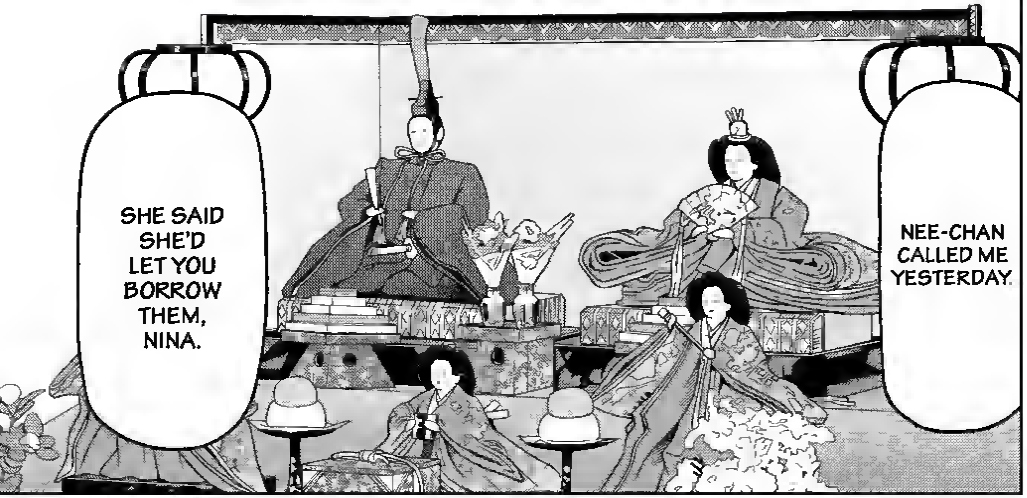


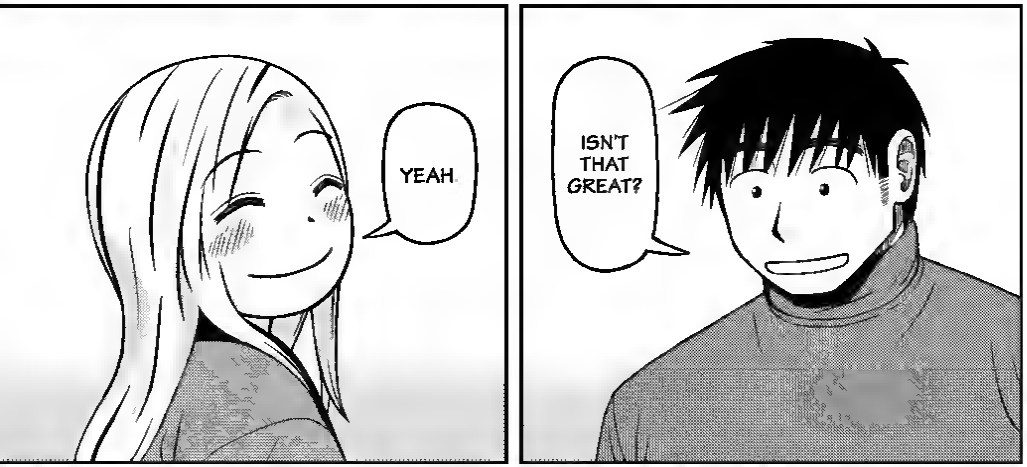

GIRLS' DAY DOLLS!

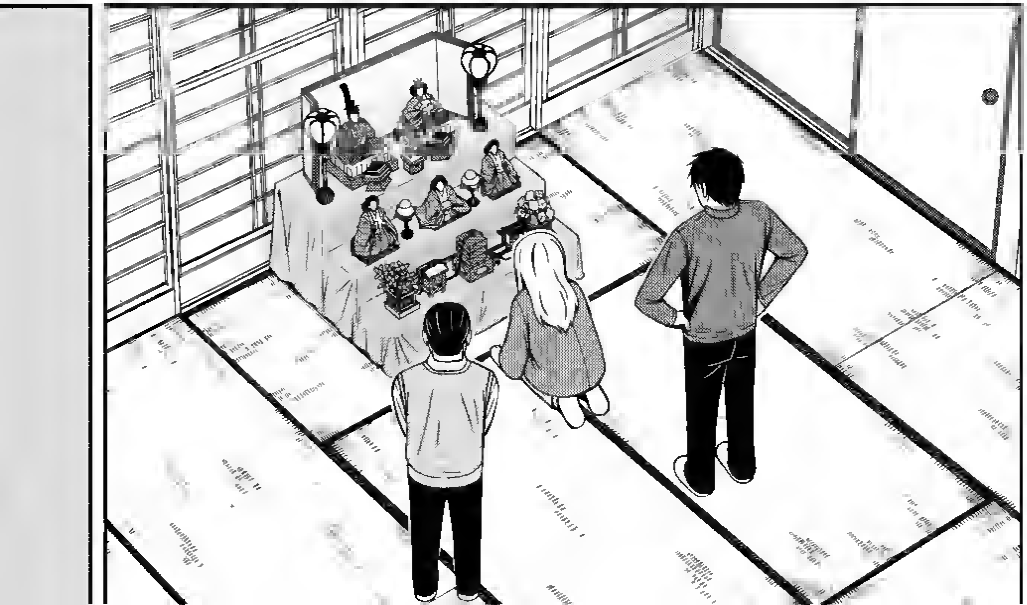
SORRY ABOUT THAT
I FORGOT THAT YŌKO ASKED ME TO SET UP THE GIRLS' DAY DOLLS.

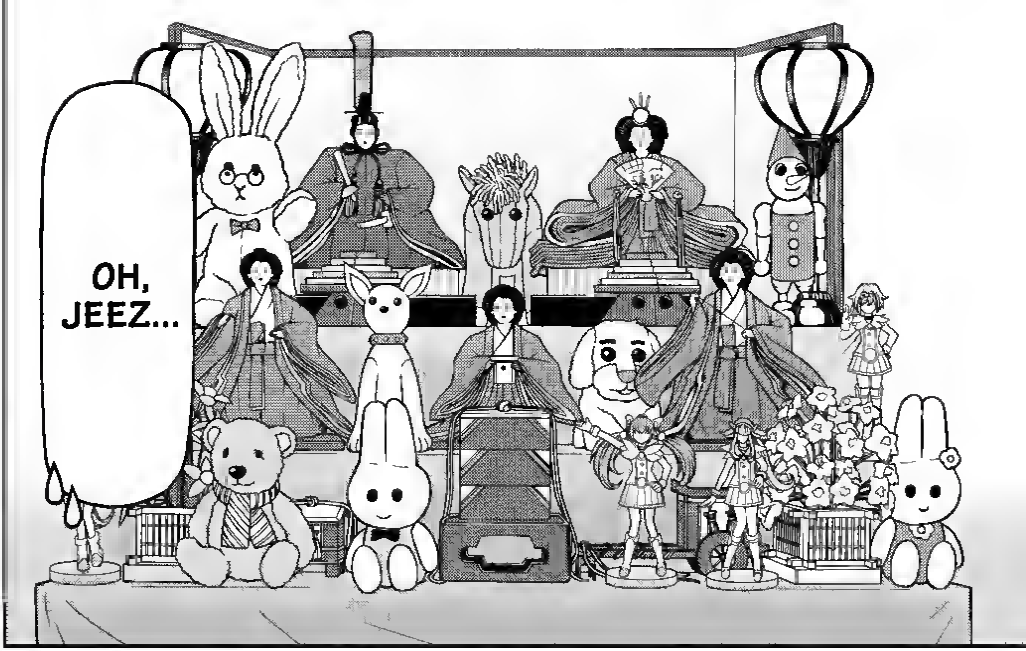


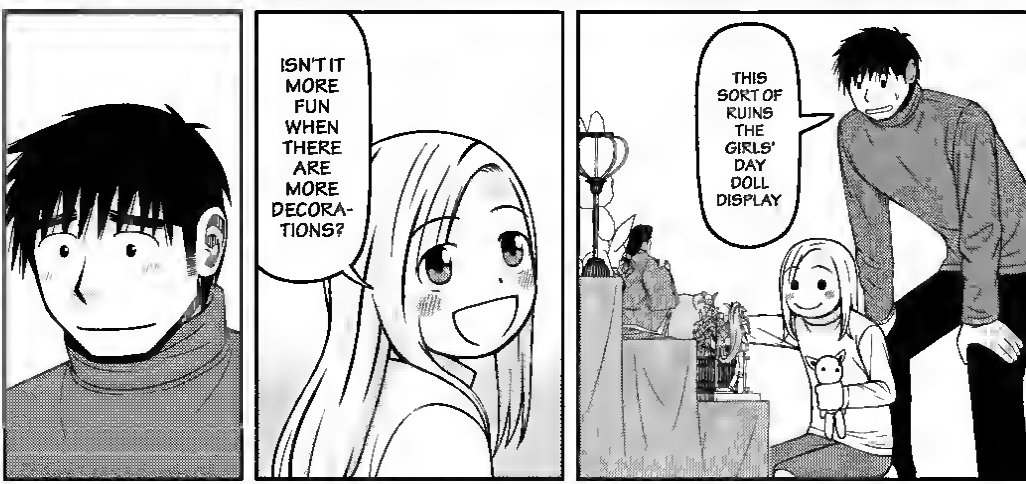
NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND THEM.
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D END UP IN THE SHOP'S STORAGE

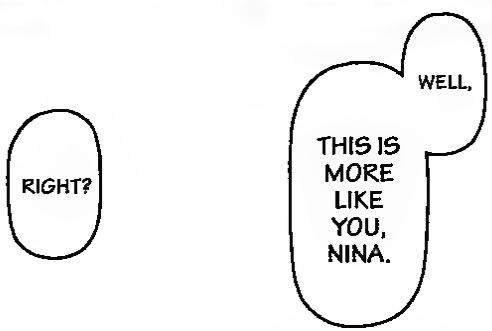

NEE-CHAN CALLED ME YESTERDAY.
SHE SAID SHE'D LET YOU BORROW THEM, NINA.


ISN'T THAT GREAT?
YEAH.







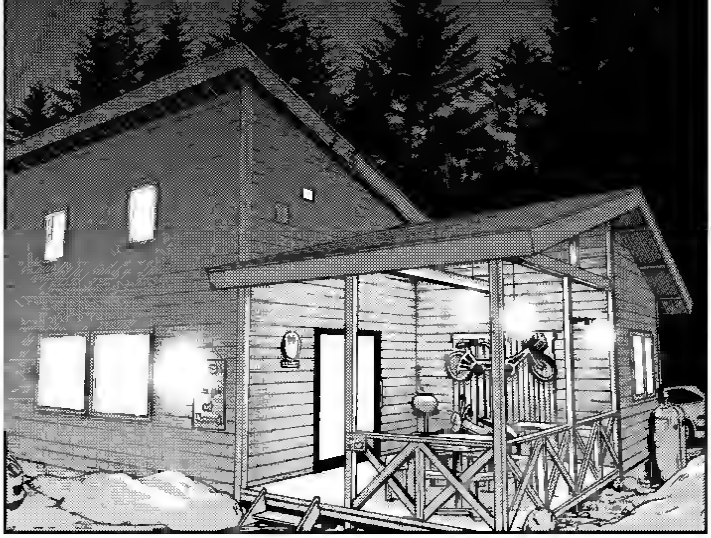


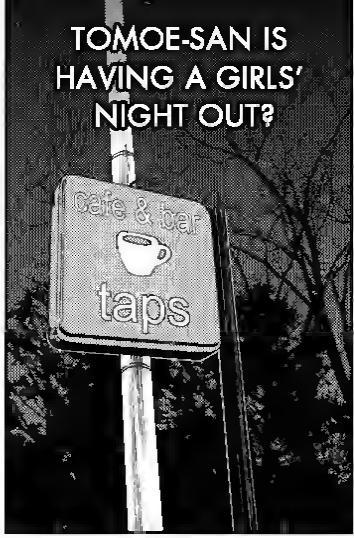
SEEKING OUT EVEN MORE WAYS TO ENJOY HERSELF!

CHAPTER 65

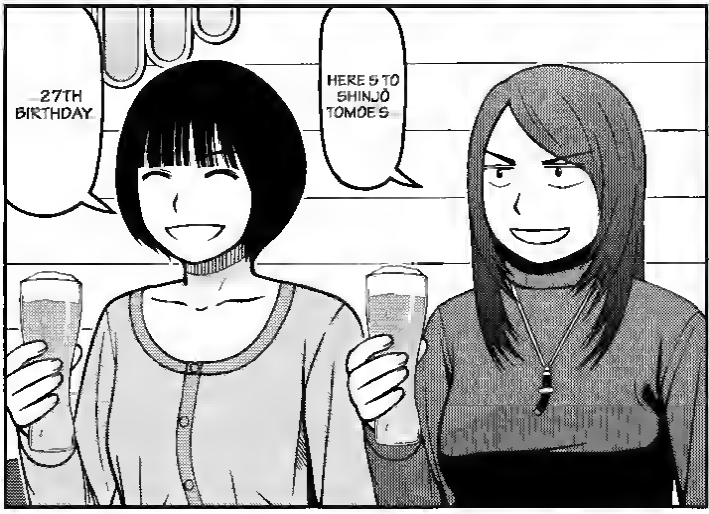
A LOST BIRTHDAY

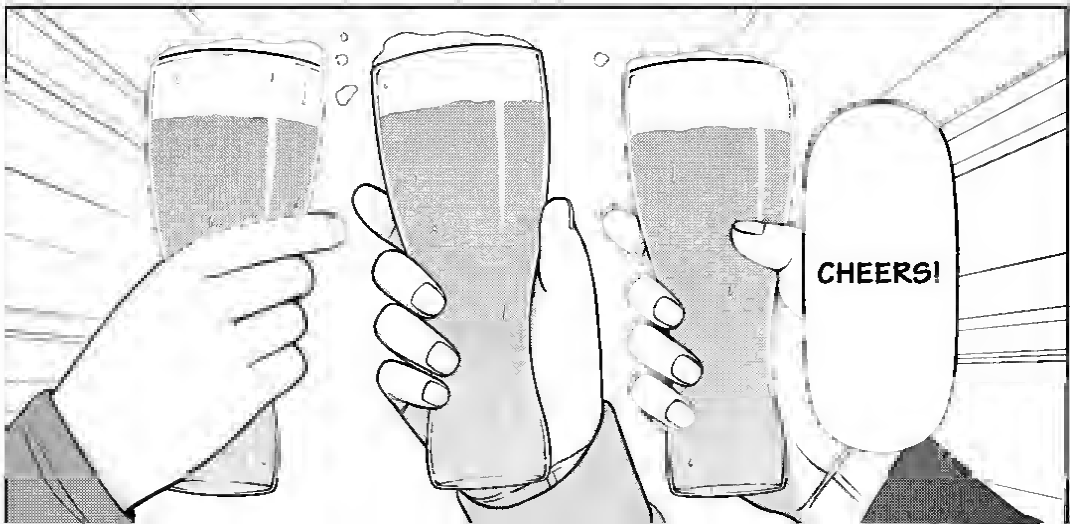
THERE ARE THINGS THAT PILE UP AS TIME GOES BY...



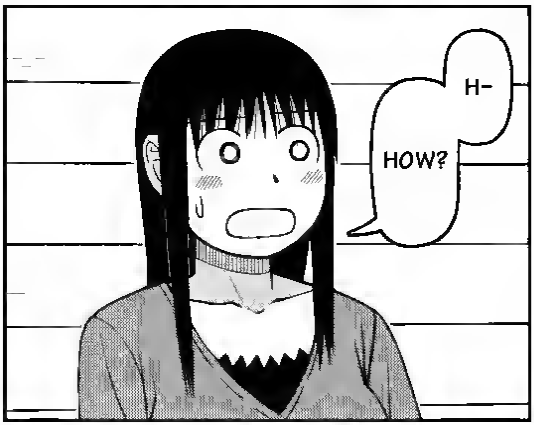

TOMOE-SAN IS HAVING A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT?
Cafe & Bar
taps

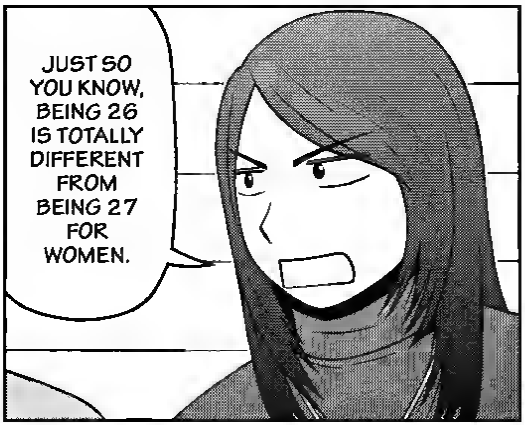
HEH...

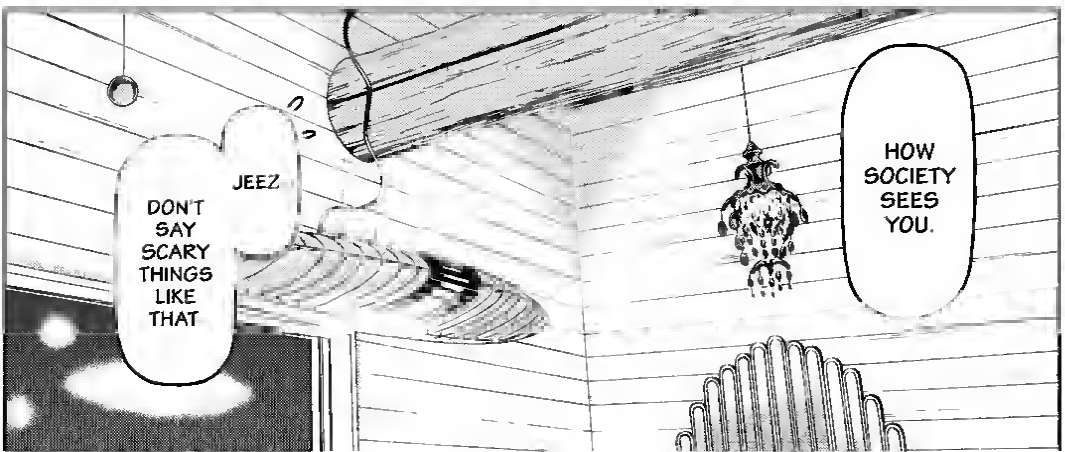

27TH BIRTHDAY
HERE'S TO SHINJÔ TOMOE'S


CHEERS!

EH?
PEOPLE CALL 27 ALMOST 30?
NOW YOU'RE ALMOST 30, LIKE US
OF COURSE!

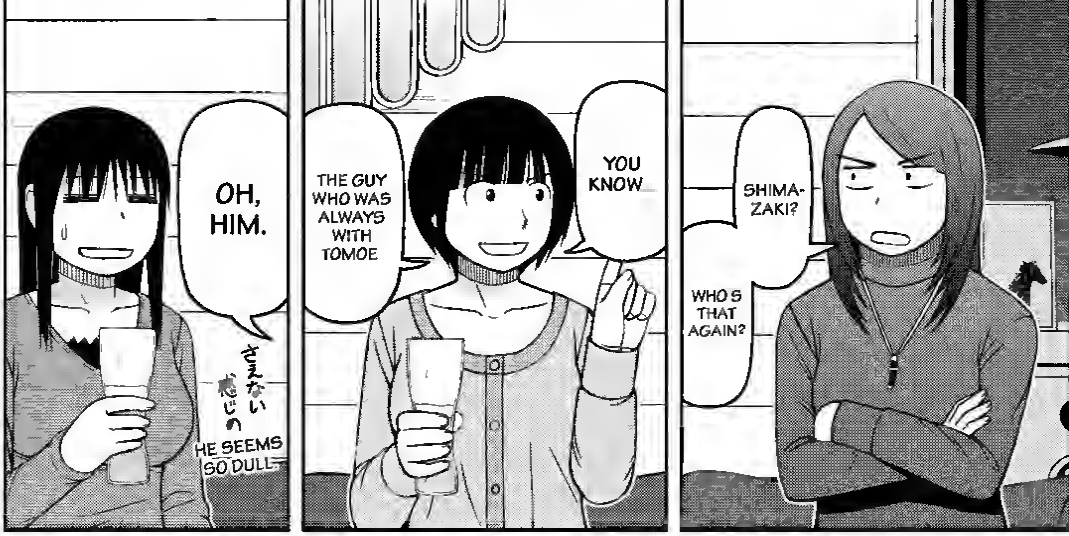

H-
HOW?


JUST SO YOU KNOW, BEING 26 IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM BEING 27 FOR WOMEN.

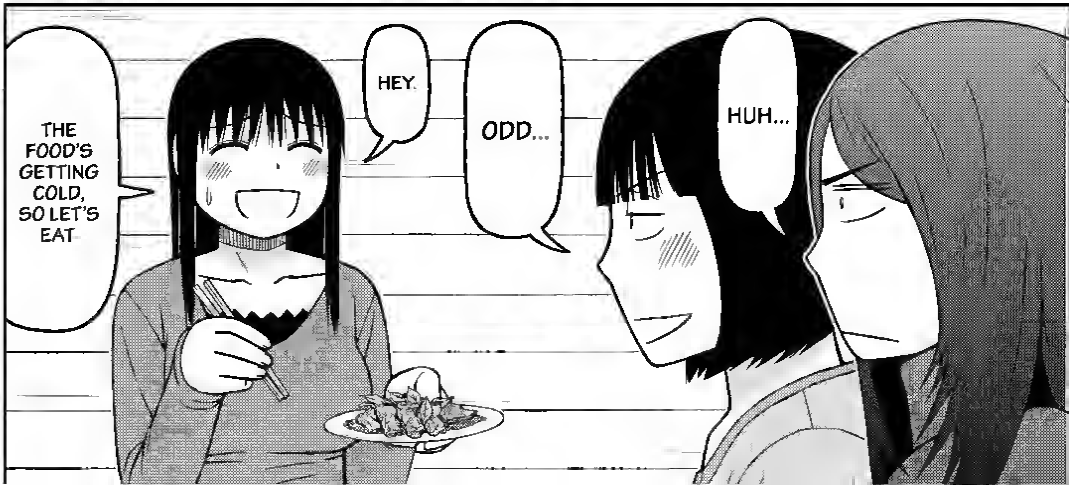

JEEZ
DON'T SAY SCARY THINGS LIKE THAT
HOW SOCIETY SEES YOU.

...AND YOU EVEN HAVE A KID, AKANE.
YOU GUYS ARE MARRIED.
..BUT YOU TWO ARE SO LUCKY.
UGH...
YEAH.
YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND GET MARRIED IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, TOMOE
YEAH, YOU DON'T HANG OUT WITH ME AT ALL.
UH...
YOU'VE BEEN BAD ABOUT HANGING OUT LATELY.
BY THE WAY...
NO, IT'S BECAUSE YOU ONLY TALK ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND, NAOKO.
LIKELY BECAUSE YOU ONLY WHINE ABOUT YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW, AKANE.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN MARRIED?
結婚してから何年経ってるんだか
DOESN'T MATTER, WE'RE STILL IN LOVE
いいでしょ今でもラブラブなんだから
HEY, NO FIGHTING, YOU TWO.
YOU'VE GOT A MAN, DON'T YOU?
ドキッ
TOMOE...
ALL RIGHT, I'M JUST GONNA ASK IT
EH
...SHIMA-ZAKI'S COME BACK FROM TOKYO.
I KNOW THAT...
H-HEY, WAIT...
ADMIT IT, CONFESS!

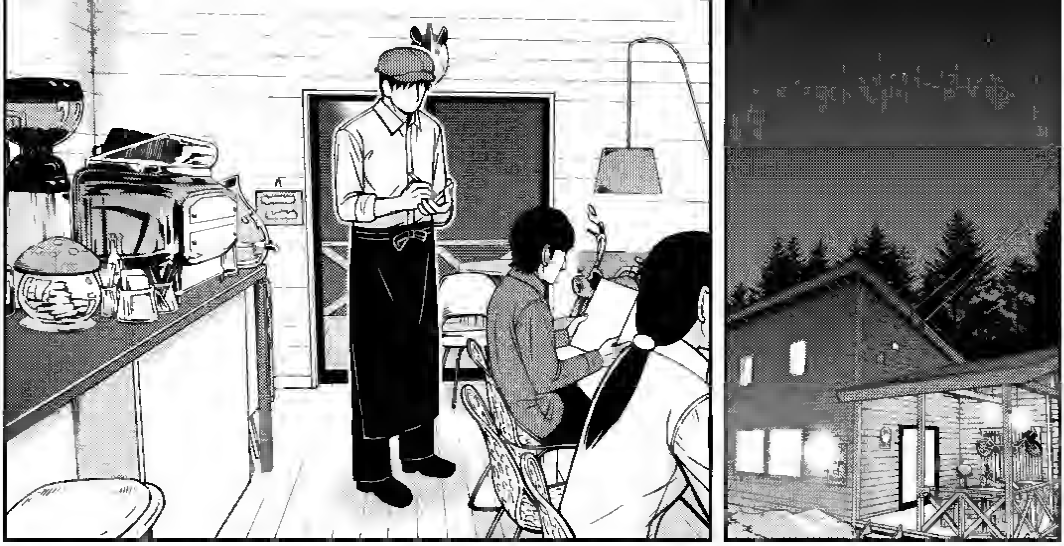

SHIMA-ZAKI?
WHO'S THAT AGAIN?
YOU KNOW
THE GUY WHO WAS ALWAYS WITH TOMOE
OH, HIM.
さえない感じの
HE SEEMS SO DULL

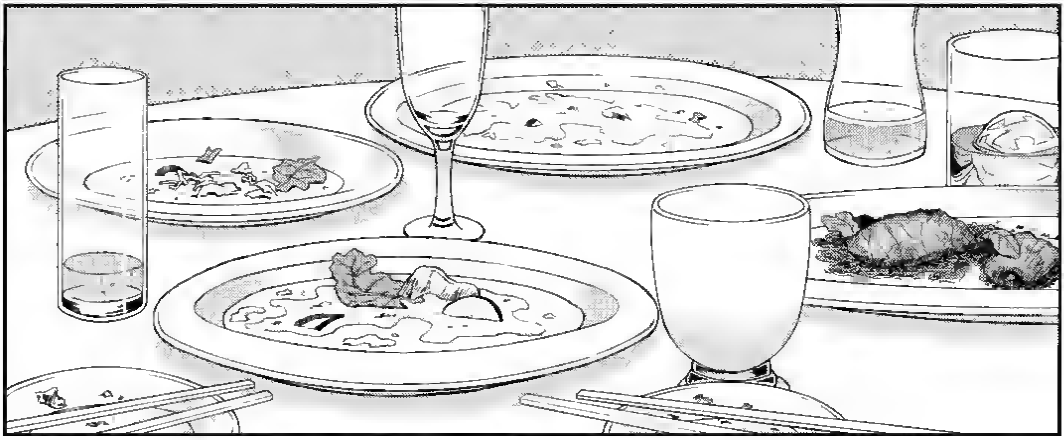
EH?
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT SHE'S BACK WITH THAT SHIMAZAKI GUY?
ARE YOU GUYS GOING OUT?
NO, WE'RE NOT!

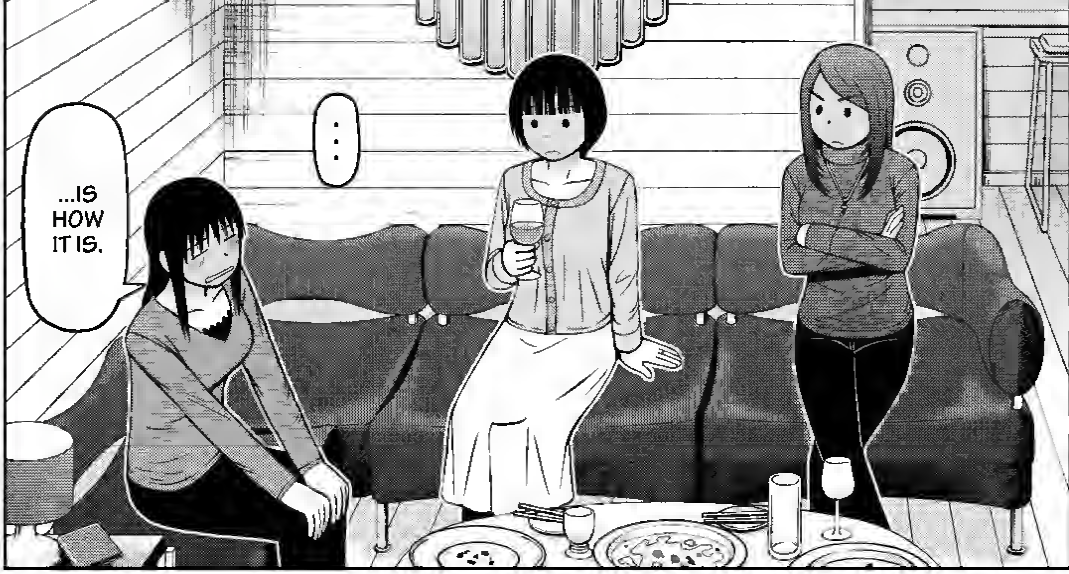

HUH...
ODD...
HEY.
THE FOOD'S GETTING COLD, SO LET'S EAT

NO WAY.
EH?
I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYING, BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS START SWEATING AROUND YOUR NOSE.
YOU KNOW, TOMOE...
AH...
I'M JUST JOKING.
NOW 'FESS UP.
UGH...
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE LYING BECAUSE YOU JUST TOUCHED YOUR NOSE
HEY, DON'T TEASE ME LIKE THAT!

ALL RIGHT.
CAN WE STOP TALKING ABOUT THIS?
THIS IS MY BIRTHDAY PARTY, SO LET'S DRINK AND HAVE FUN.
WINE NEXT?
MENU
HUH?
HEY, WAIT!
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!
OKAY, LET'S GET TOMOE COMPLETELY DRUNK AND THEN HAVE HER CONFESS EVERYTHING
OH, AND SOME FOOD.
SIR!
COULD YOU BRING ON THE YUMMY DRINKS?
YES, MA'AM.



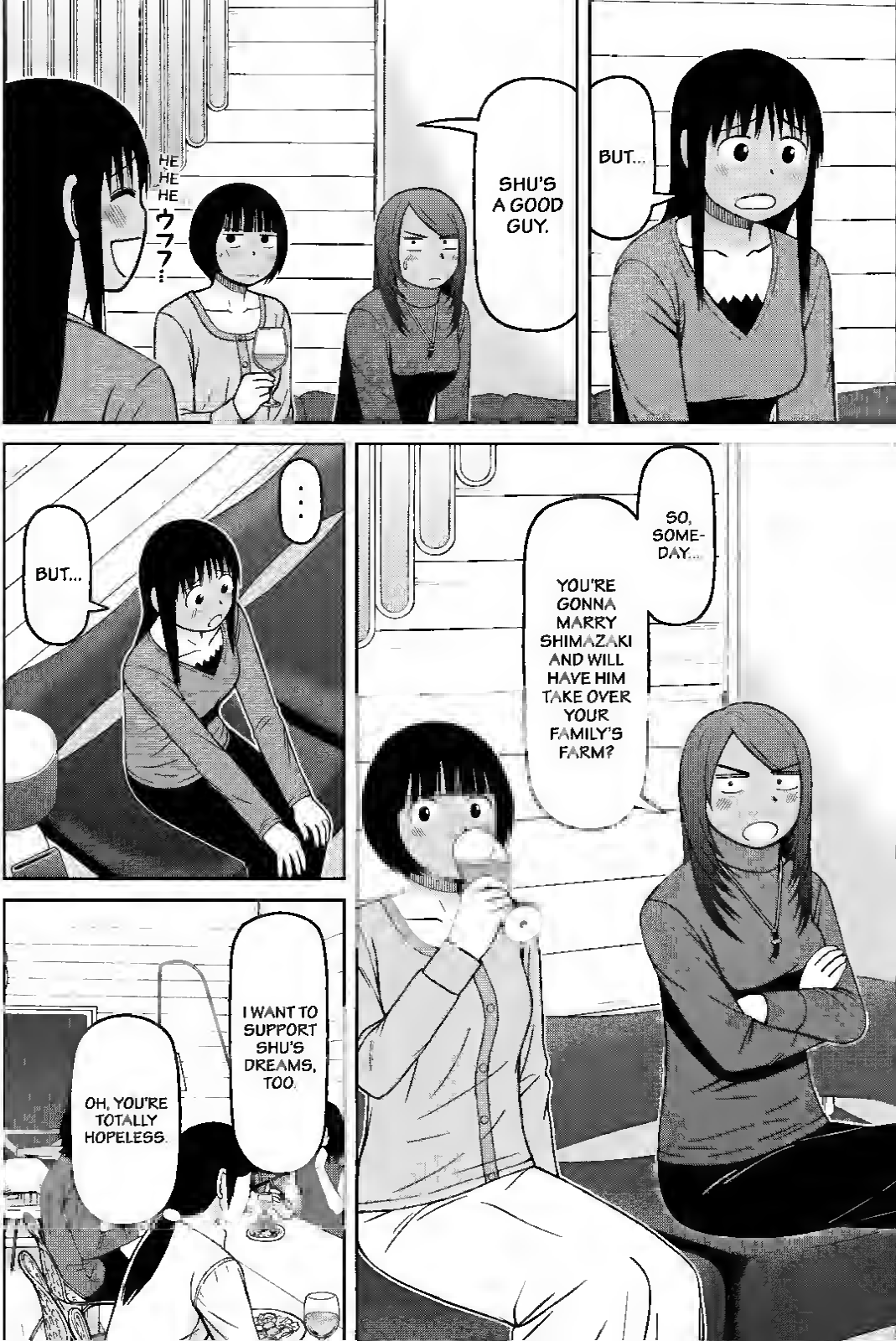



...IS HOW IT IS.
...

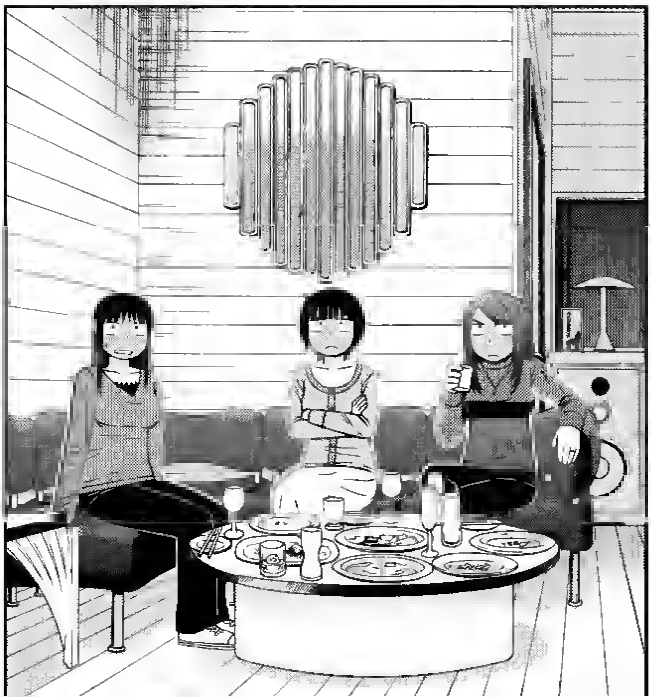
WE'RE PRETTY DRUNK, TOO
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN YOU PRETTY DRUNK
HEH,
TOMOE

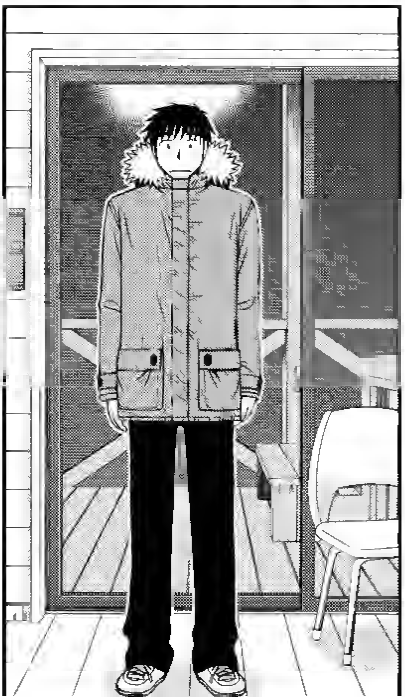
SORRY TO LET YOU DOWN.
I WAS TOTALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING SOMETHING MORE DIRTY.
SO BORING.
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU'RE GOING OUT AT ALL.
BUT FROM WHAT YOU JUST SAID,

UH, NO, I DID NOT.
LIKE A DATE?
WAIT, TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, BUT YOU DIDN'T PLAN ANYTHING WITH SHIMAZAKI?
HUH?
EH...
YEAH, A CLUELESS GUY LIKE THAT'S NOT GONNA WORK.
DON'T TELL ME HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THAT IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!
...
YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON HIM
OBSESSING OVER GOING TO TOKYO, HE'S NOT ABLE TO LIVE IN REALITY
THOUGH, IF HE'S 27 AND STILL...


HE HE HE
ウフフ…
SHU'S A GOOD GUY.
BUT...
…
BUT...
SO, SOME-DAY...
YOU'RE GONNA MARRY SHIMAZAKI AND WILL HAVE HIM TAKE OVER YOUR FAMILY'S FARM?
I WANT TO SUPPORT SHU'S DREAMS, TOO.
OH, YOU'RE TOTALLY HOPELESS.

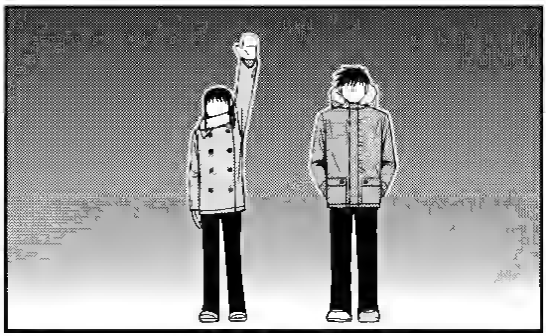
OKAY,
LET'S CALL THIS SHIMAZAKI GUY OVER.
AGREED
EH?
RIGHT NOW?

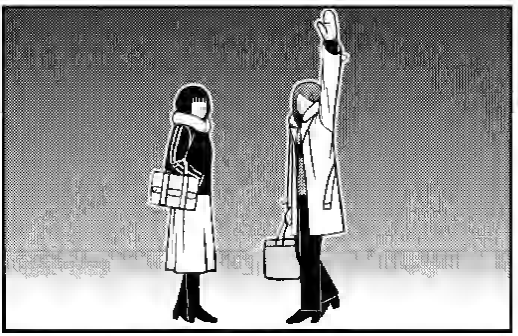




HUH?
EH...
WHO'S THAT?
UH, ERM, OH NO, IT'S ALREADY AFTER 9, SO I'VE GOTTA HEAD HOME NOW!
ME, TOO
H-HEY..
YOU GUYS MUST BE PRETTY DRUNK.
YOU'RE WASTED.
ベロベロじゃねーか
AH.
YOU GUYS TOLD ME TO CALL SHU OVER!
DID WE?
I DON'T RECALL THAT.

laps
CAFE
&BAR





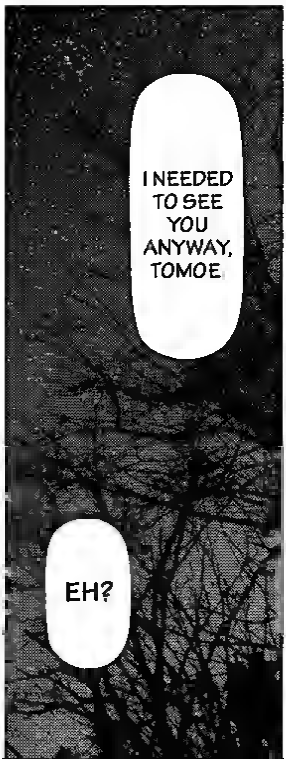
WELL, I'LL WALK YOU HOME, SO LET'S HEAD BACK.
OKAY...

I'M SORRY.

IT'S FINE
WE WERE DRUNK, AND LIKE... YEAH

...I RAN RIGHT OVER SINCE YOU TOLD ME TO HURRY.
WHAT THE HECK?

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO DRUNK, TOMOE.
R-REALLY?
NOT TO MENTION YOU LEFT THAT PARTY WE HAD IN OCTOBER EARLY.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.


I NEEDED TO SEE YOU ANYWAY, TOMOE.
EH?

NAH...
IT WAS PERFECT TIMING

I TOTALLY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO DRINK A LITTLE TODAY.

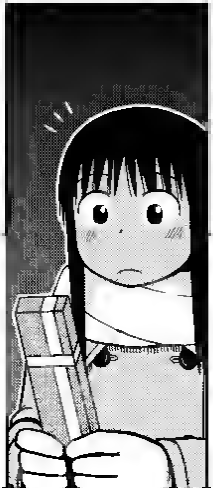
SHU, I'M REALLY SORRY.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

DID I SAY THAT?
THE FACT THAT WHITE DAY AND YOUR BIRTHDAY WERE THE SAME DAY AND YOU ALWAYS MISSED OUT

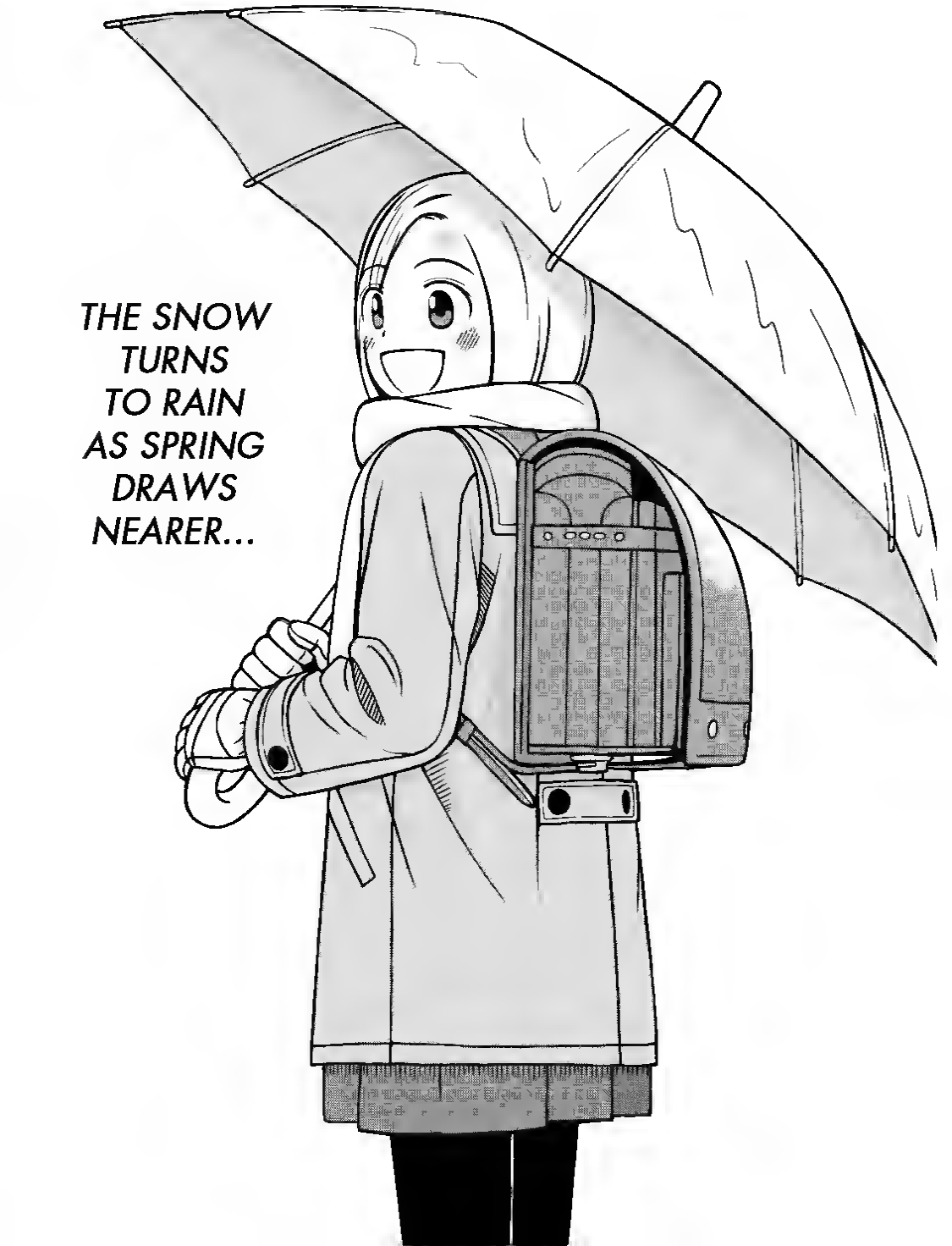
YOU REMEMBERED MY BIRTHDAY?
HA HA
YOU ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT IT IN THE PAST

WELL...
SO THIS IS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT ALSO SERVES AS YOU RETURNING WHAT I GAVE YOU ON VALENTINE'S DAY?
SO I AM LOSING OUT!



OVERALL, IT WAS A PRETTY GOOD BIRTHDAY!

CHAPTER 66 THE MARCH PROMISE



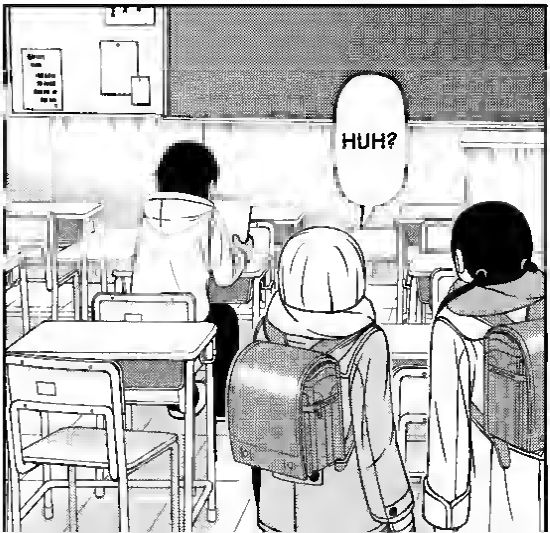
IT'S MARCH IN THE STILL-COLD KITA-KARUIZAWA, AND TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE THIRD TERM.
TODAY WILL BE YOUR LAST DAY AS FOURTH GRADERS.
NEXT MONTH, YOU WILL EMBARK ON A NEW JOURNEY AS FIFTH GRADERS.
BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE HOMEWORK DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD SPEND ALL YOUR TIME PLAYING.
SPRING BREAK STARTS TOMORROW.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.
また来月ね
BYE, SENSEI.
先生さようなら〜

ESPECIALLY YOU, TAKAHASHI.
ME?
はは HA HA HA

SURE.

ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN..
LET'S GO HOME.


HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG, ARISA-CHAN?
SIGH...
は
DIPLOMA
HUH?
WHY?
I DON'T WANNA GO HOME.
I SEE...
なるほど...
IF MY MOM FINDS OUT, SHE'S TOTALLY GONNA GET MAD AT ME.
IT'S MY REPORT CARD
I GOT TWO MORE △ THAN LAST TERM.

NINA'S?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR REPORT CARD, NINA?

OKAY.
I'LL SHOW YOU MINE
IF YOU SHOW ME YOURS, NINA,

THANKS
HERE

I'M SURE YOU GOT ◎ ON EVERYTHING OTHER THAN GYM, SO I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOURS
WANT TO SEE MINE?

HUH?
YOU GOT A ◎ IN MATH?
AND IN GYM.
YEAH
HMM...
WOW, GUESS YOU'RE ABOUT THE SAME AS ME
I GOT A ◎ IN GYM, TOO.
AH, YOU HAVE A LOT OF △ TOO, NINA.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE TOO ASHAMED, THEN.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THE SAME MARKS AS SHIMAZAKI-SAN, WHO HASN'T EVEN BEEN IN JAPAN FOR A YEAR.

WOW, LUCKY.
MAMA HAS NEVER GOTTEN ANGRY AT NINA ABOUT HER GRADES.
YOUR MOM DOESN'T GET ANGRY ABOUT YOUR GRADES, NINA?

I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP MY MOM FROM YELLING AT ME.
AH, MAN...

I THINK THAT'S PRETTY NORMAL
AND MAMA'S REALLY SCARY WHEN SHE'S MAD.
SHE GETS REALLY ANGRY IF NINA LIES.
BUT...

JUST TAKE THE SCOLDING.
THERE ISN'T ONE.

CHEER UP, ARISA-CHAN.
YEAH, LET'S STOP AT THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE ON OUR WAY HOME AND GET MEAT BUNS!

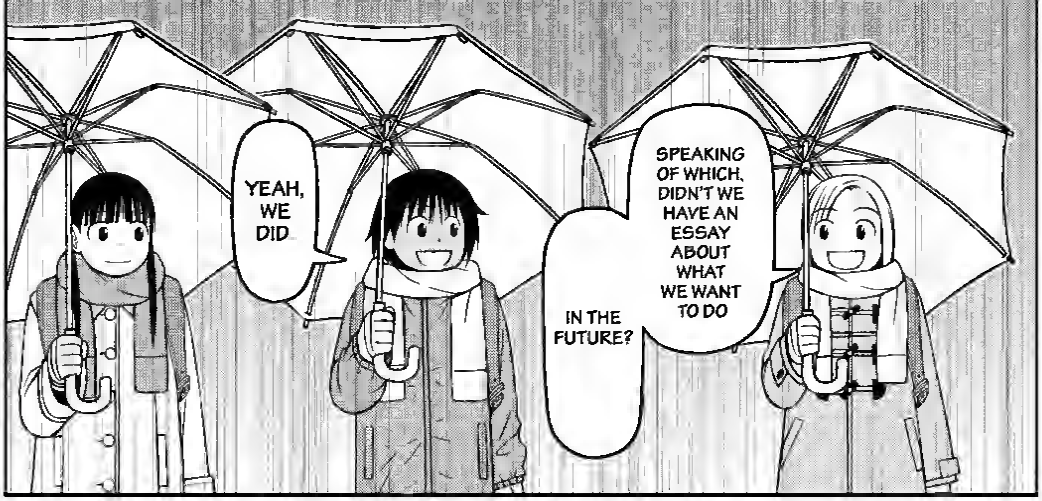
EATING YUMMY THINGS MAKES YOU HAPPY.
YOU SHOULD COME TOO, MAKOTO-CHAN.
...
WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE BUYING ANYTHING ON OUR WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, BUT I'LL IGNORE THAT FOR TOOAY

WHY DO WE EVEN NEED TO STUDY?
AW, MAN...

STOP SAYING HARD THINGS

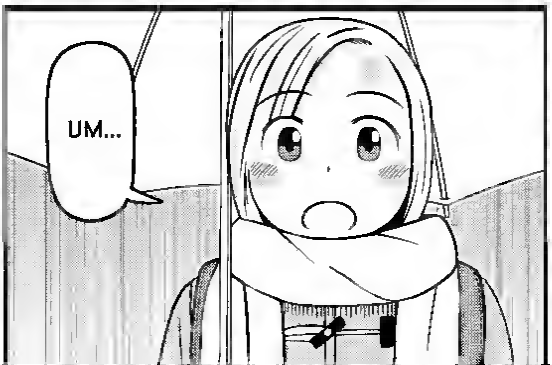
IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE IF YOU STUDY, YOU CAN GET INTO A GOOD SCHOOL...
...AND THEN YOU'LL HAVE MORE CHANCES TO DO THE THINGS YOU WANT IN THE FUTURE

I DON'T REALLY GET ALL OF THIS YET.


YEAH, WE DID.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DIDN'T WE HAVE AN ESSAY ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE A PRETTY CAN, DIDN'T YOU, NINA?

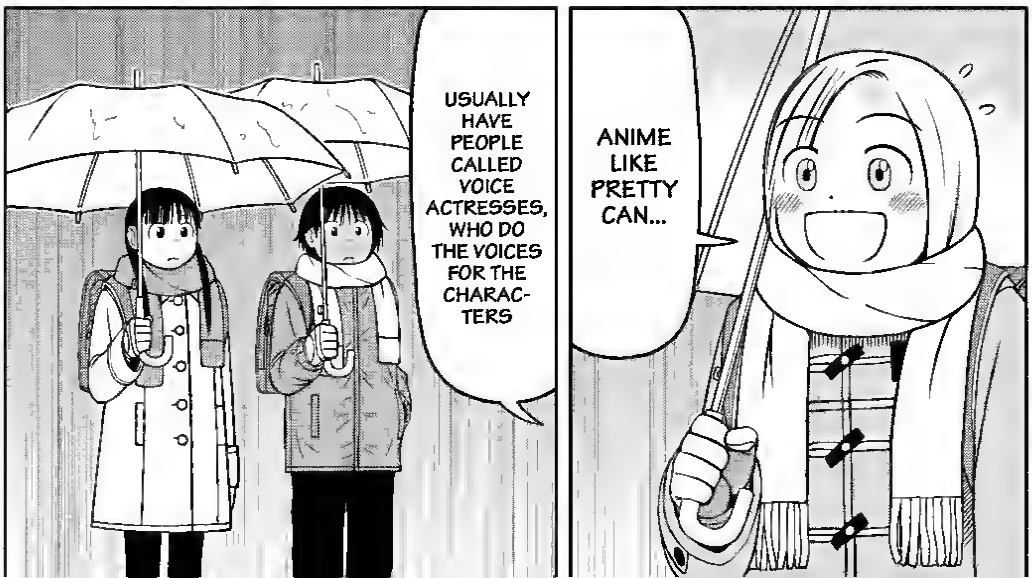
...AND AN IDOL.

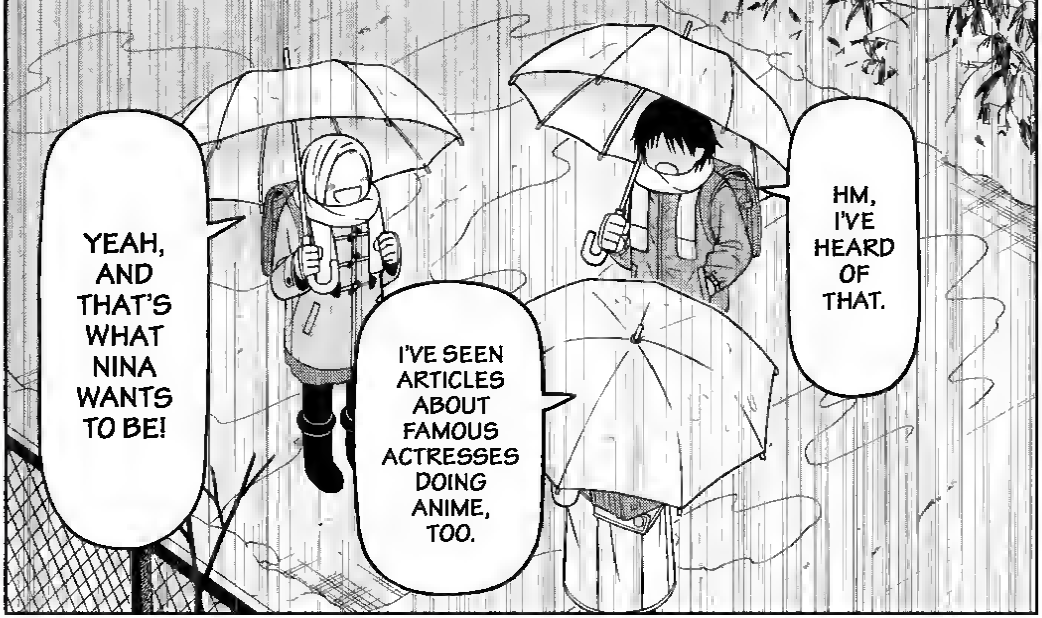

UM...

AND I WROTE THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE.
I WROTE ABOUT BEING A TEACHER.

OHHHH!

YEAH, THAT'S IT!
NINA FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT!
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU FIGURE OUT SHIMAZAKI-SAN?

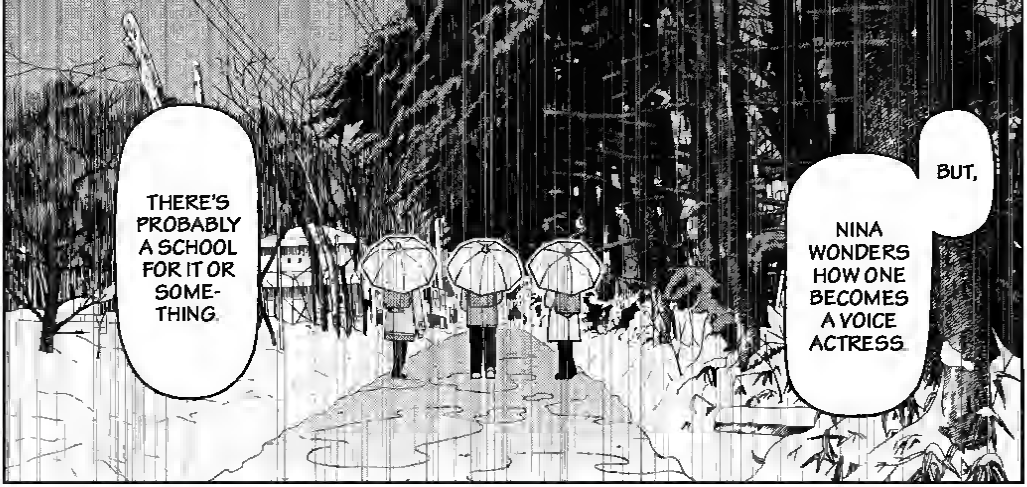

ANIME LIKE PRETTY CAN...
USUALLY HAVE PEOPLE CALLED VOICE ACTRESSES, WHO DO THE VOICES FOR THE CHARAC-TERS


HM, I'VE HEARD OF THAT.
I'VE SEEN ARTICLES ABOUT FAMOUS ACTRESSES DOING ANIME, TOO.
YEAH, AND THAT'S WHAT NINA WANTS TO BE!

SO IT'S NOT THAT YOU WANT TO BE AN ANIME CHARACTER.
IT'S THAT YOU WANT TO PLAY ONE?
YUP.

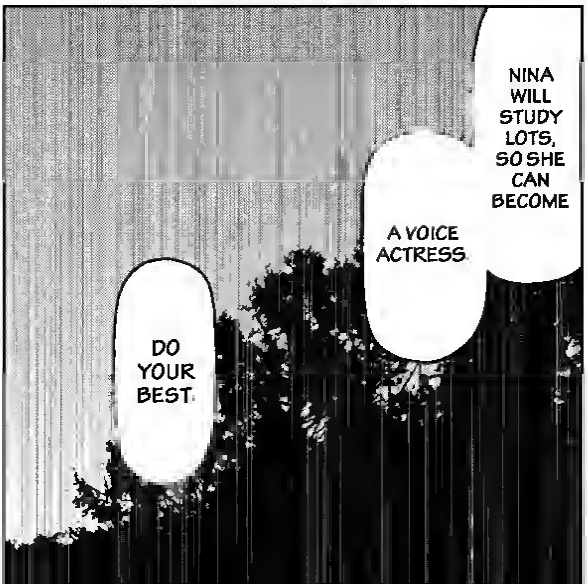
WELL.
THAT'S A PRETTY UNDER-STANDABLE DREAM

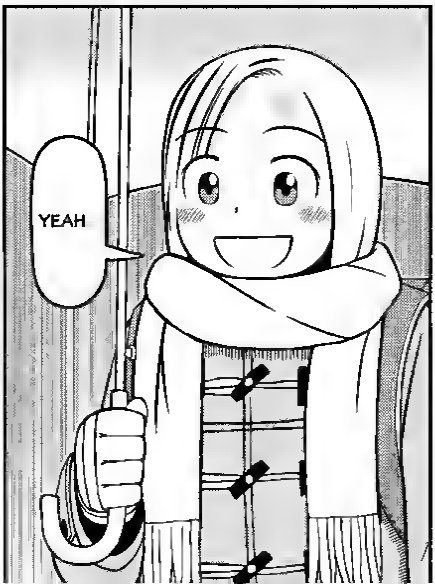
NINA'S FAVORITE IDOL MOMONA-CHAN IS A VOICE ACTRESS, TOO
HUH.


BUT,
NINA WONDERS HOW ONE BECOMES A VOICE ACTRESS.
THERE'S PROBABLY A SCHOOL FOR IT OR SOMETHING.

I'M SURE THE SCRIPTS WILL HAVE A LOT OF DIFFICULT KANJI IN THEM.
IT'S A JOB WHERE YOU'LL HAVE TO KNOW A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

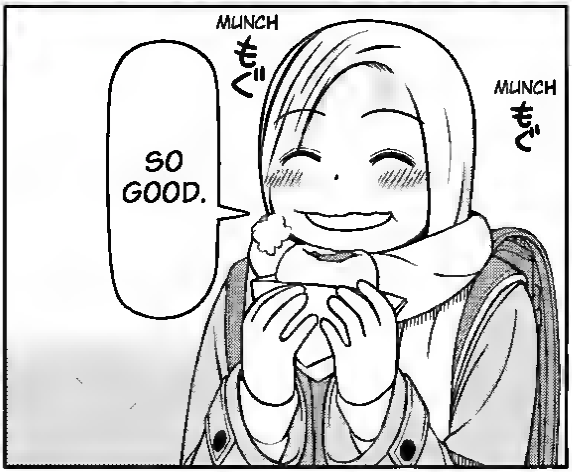
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO STUDY REALLY HARD, SHIMAZAKI-SAN.
HUH?

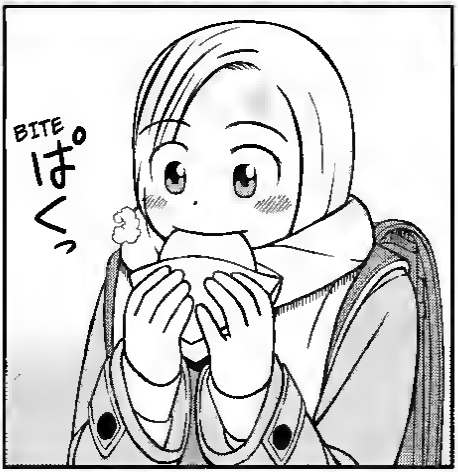

NINA WILL STUDY LOTS, SO SHE CAN BECOME A VOICE ACTRESS.
DO YOUR BEST.


YEAH.

I SEE...
I GUESS HAVING A GOAL LIKE NINA DOES
CAN MAKE YOU WANT TO STUDY.
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT, ARISA-CHAN.
I'M GONNA GO AT MY OWN PACE AND WILL FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DO.
NO NEED TO RUSH.
THAT'S GOOD, TOO...
BUT...
BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST STUDY ENOUGH
THAT YOUR MOM DOESN'T YELL AT YOU
忘れてた
FORGOT
あ…
AH
CHEER UP, ARISA-CHAN.
UGH...

SAVE OK

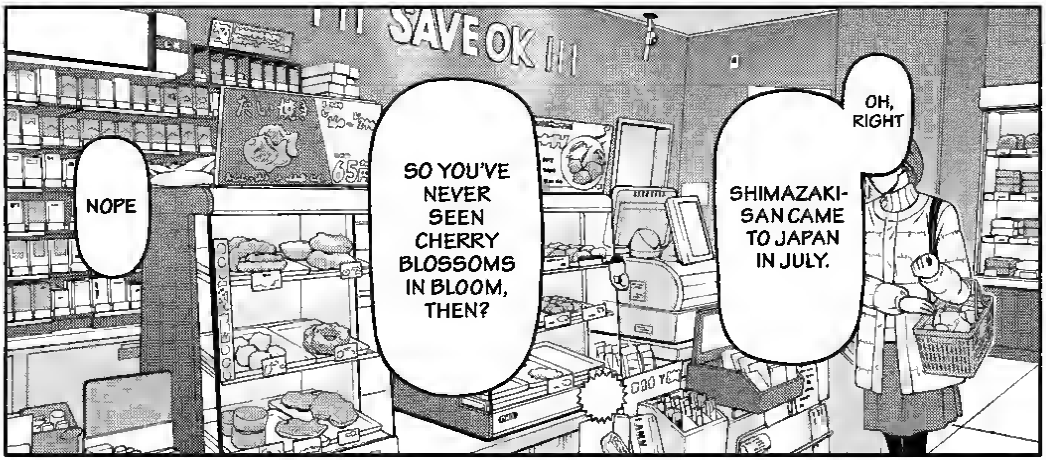

MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
SO GOOD.


BITE
ぱくっ

挽きたて珈琲
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MARCH, IT STILL FEELS LIKE WINTER HERE.
I HOPE SPRING COMES SOON.

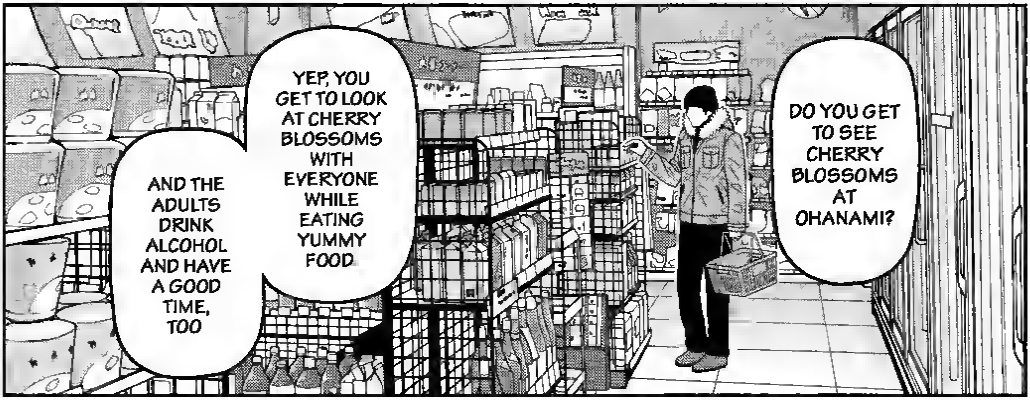
YEAH.
COLD WEATHER MAKES NINA WANT TO EAT WARM THINGS.

CHERRY BLOS-SOMS?
NINA WANTS IT TO HURRY SO SHE CAN SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.

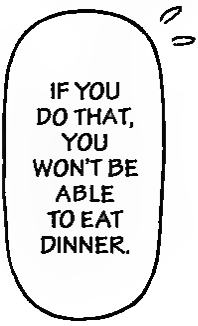

SAVE OK
NOPE
SO YOU'VE NEVER SEEN CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN BLOOM, THEN?
OH, RIGHT
SHIMAZAKI-SAN CAME TO JAPAN IN JULY.

THAT'S WHY
NINA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM THIS SPRING.
I SEE
WELL, YOU CAME IN THE SUMMER, SO THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY.
BUT NINA HAS N'T SEEN ANY
NINA THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN BLOOM IN JAPAN.
揚げもち
FRIED MOCHI
6円

I KNOW!
LET'S GO DO OHANAMI TOGETHER.
AND BRING LUNCHES
お弁当も
OHA-NAMI?


DO YOU GET TO SEE CHERRY BLOSSOMS AT OHANAMI?
YEP, YOU GET TO LOOK AT CHERRY BLOSSOMS WITH EVERYONE WHILE EATING YUMMY FOOD
AND THE ADULTS DRINK ALCOHOL AND HAVE A GOOD TIME, TOO

THAT SOUNDS FUN!
LET'S GO DO OHA-NAMI!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S DECIDED



OHANAMI WILL HAPPEN IN KITA-KARUIZAWA AROUND GOLDEN WEEK!

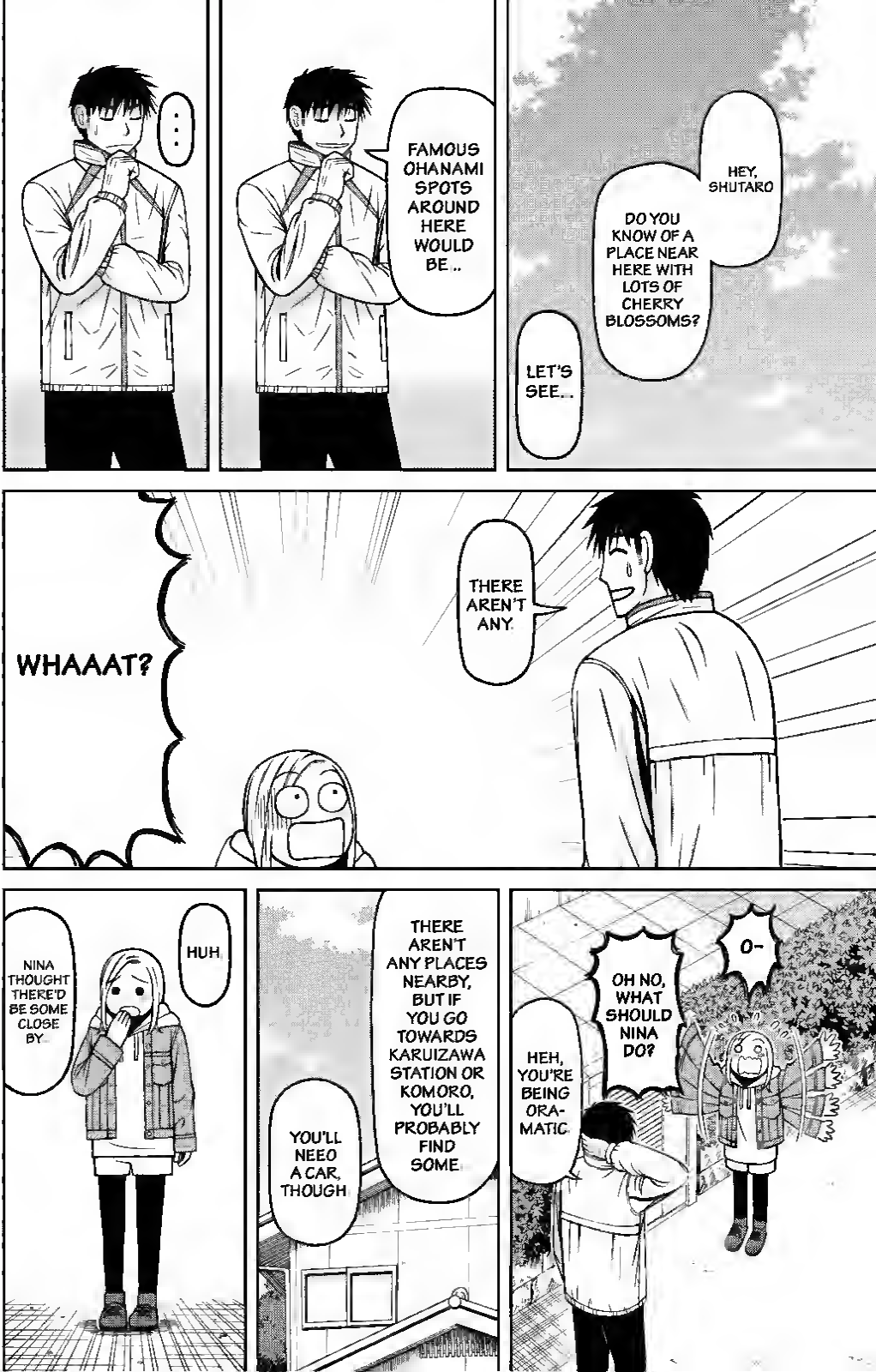
CHAPTER 67 LET'S GO FIND THEM

AN EXCITING PROMISE IS MADE...

...TO GO FLOWER VIEWING WHEN SPRING ARRIVES.

IT'S STARTING TO BECOME THAT TIME OF YEAR WHERE YOU WANT TO MOVE YOUR BODY!
THE SNOW ON THE ROOF IS ALL GONE...
THE TREES ARE GROWING NEW LEAVES...
...IS ALMOST HERE.
SPRING...
...
YUP.

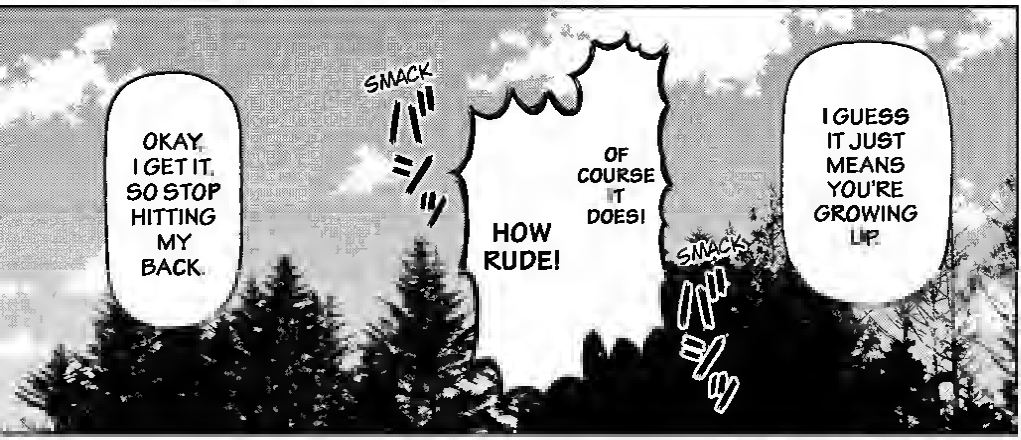
JUST STRETCH-ING A BIT
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
MORNING, SHUTARO
NINA IS LEAVING NOW
CHERRY BLOS-SOMS?
NINA'S GOING TO LOOK FOR CHERRY BLOSSOMS
ARE YOU HEADED SOME-WHERE, NINA?
AH, OHANAMI, HUH?
NINA MADE A PROMISE WITH ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN TO GO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
YUP.


HEY, SHUTARO
DO YOU KNOW OF A PLACE NEAR HERE WITH LOTS OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS?
LET'S SEE...
FAMOUS OHANAMI SPOTS AROUND HERE WOULD BE ..
...
THERE AREN'T ANY.
WHAAAT?
O-
OH NO, WHAT SHOULD NINA DO?
HEH, YOU'RE BEING DRA-MATIC.
THERE AREN'T ANY PLACES NEARBY, BUT IF YOU GO TOWARDS KARUIZAWA STATION OR KOMORO, YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND SOME.
YOU'LL NEED A CAR, THOUGH.
HUH.
NINA THOUGHT THERE'D BE SOME CLOSE BY.

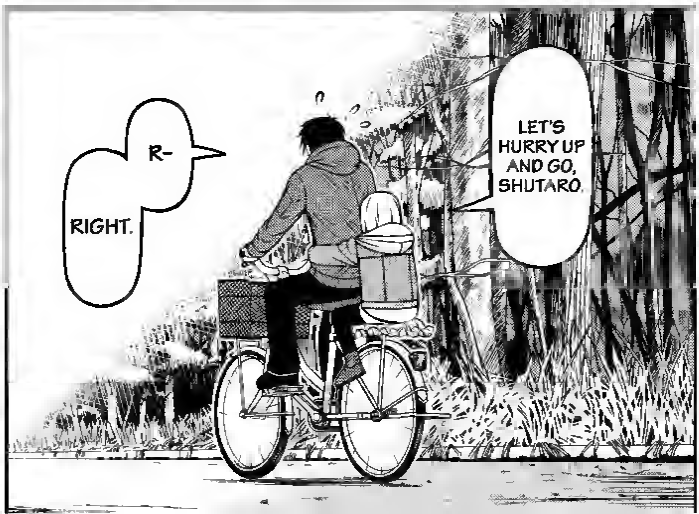
BUT...
THERE MIGHT BE A NEW OHANAMI SPOT AROUND HERE THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
I WAS GONE FOR QUITE A WHILE, SO
俺は長らく地元をはなれてたしな
THEN LET'S GO LOOK TOGETHER, SHUTARO!
SURE
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE OUR LAST BIKE RIDE,
SO LET'S TAKE A RIDE AND SEE.
YEAH.
GSのバイトも終わっちまって今ヒマだしな…
I HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME SINCE I'M NOT WORKING AT THE GAS STATION RIGHT NOW...
シュータローまたムショになっちゃったんだ
YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED AGAIN, SHUTARO.
はは…
HEH.

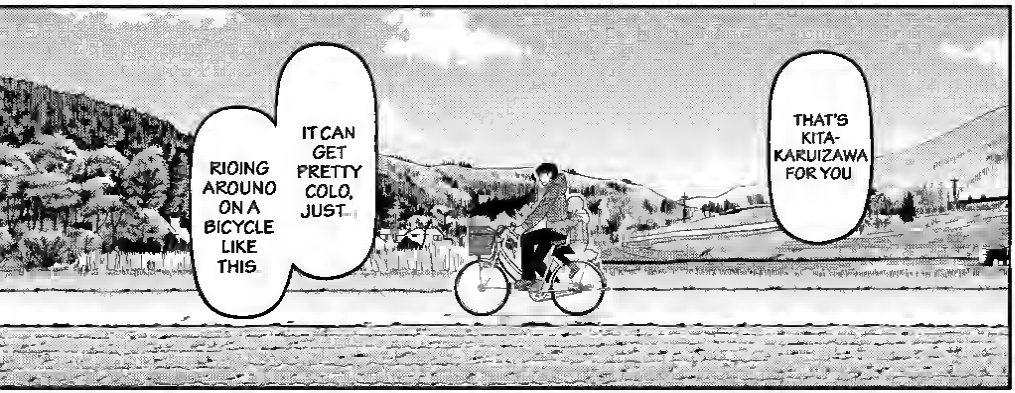
BLAST OFF!
HM?
TUG
DID YOU GET HEAVIER?
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
?

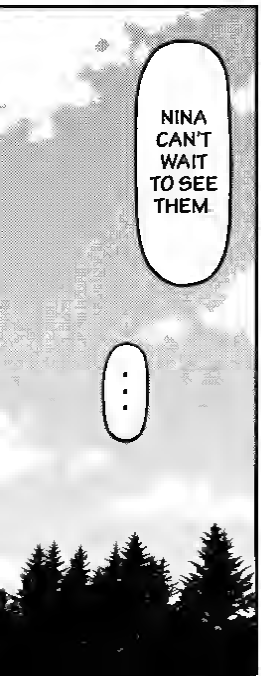
SMACK
!DIOT!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO CALL A GIRL HEAVY!
SMACK
SMACK
SORRY, SORRY.

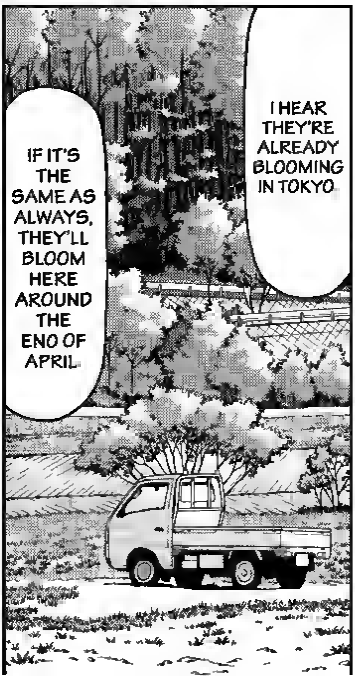

I GUESS IT JUST MEANS YOU'RE GROWING UP.
SMACK
OF COURSE IT DOES!
HOW RUDE!
SMACK
OKAY. I GET IT. SO STOP HITTING MY BACK.

THE PEDALS ARE HEAVY...
ペダルが重い…
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
何か言った？
NOPE...
べつに…


LET'S HURRY UP AND GO, SHUTARO.
R-
RIGHT.


THAT'S KITA-KARUIZAWA FOR YOU
IT CAN GET PRETTY COLD, JUST
RIDING AROUND ON A BICYCLE LIKE THIS

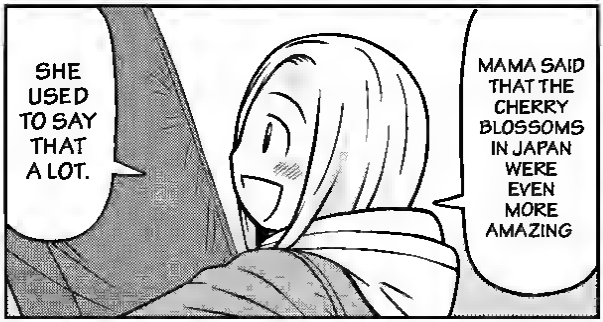

NINA CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM
...

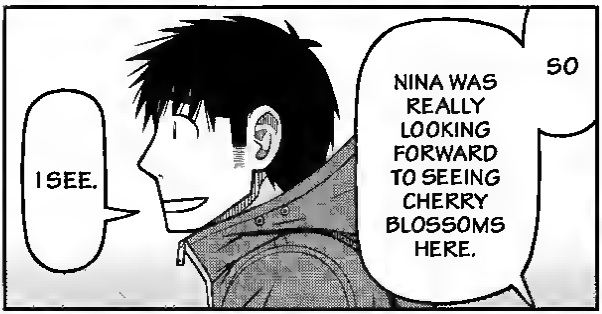

I HEAR THEY'RE ALREADY BLOOMING IN TOKYO
IF IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS, THEY'LL BLOOM HERE AROUND THE END OF APRIL

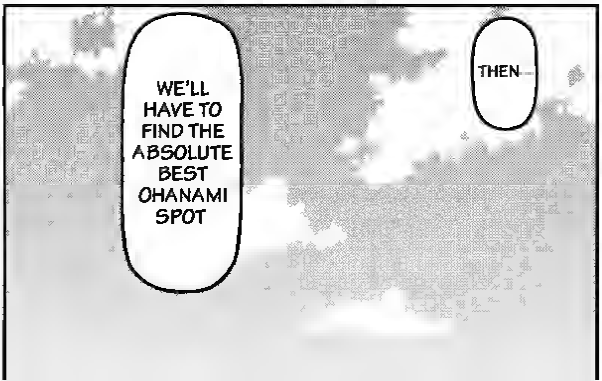
SHU-TARO
WHEN DO THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS START BLOOMING?

CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON, HUH

AREN'T THERE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES IN FINLAND?
YES.
OH, REALLY?


MAMA SAID THAT THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN JAPAN WERE EVEN MORE AMAZING
SHE USED TO SAY THAT A LOT.

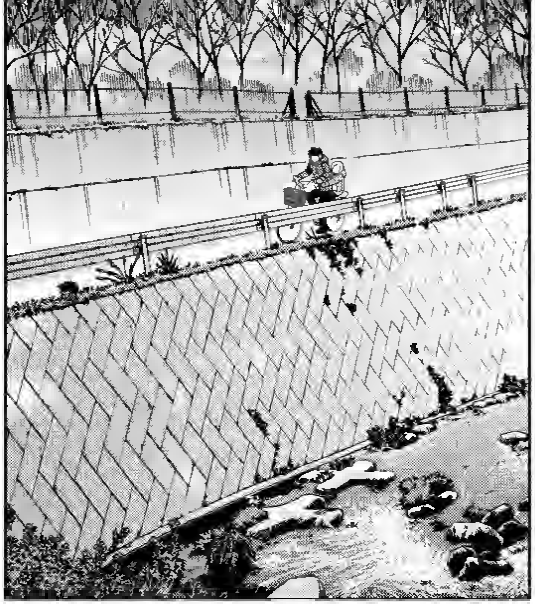

SO NINA WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING CHERRY BLOSSOMS HERE.
I SEE.

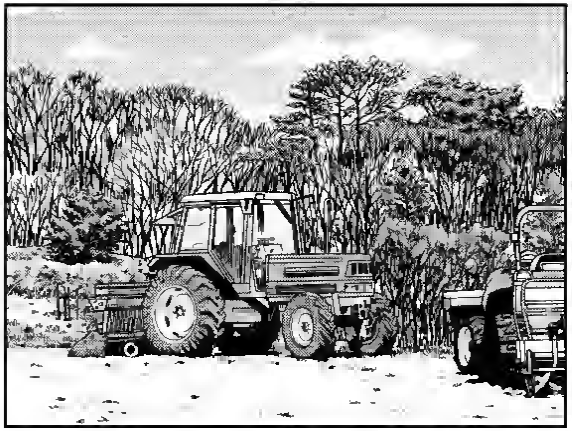

THEN
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND THE ABSOLUTE BEST OHANAMI SPOT

THERE'S A PARK NEAR HELSINKI THAT HAS A LOT OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS,
BUT NINA'S NEVER BEEN.
I SEE

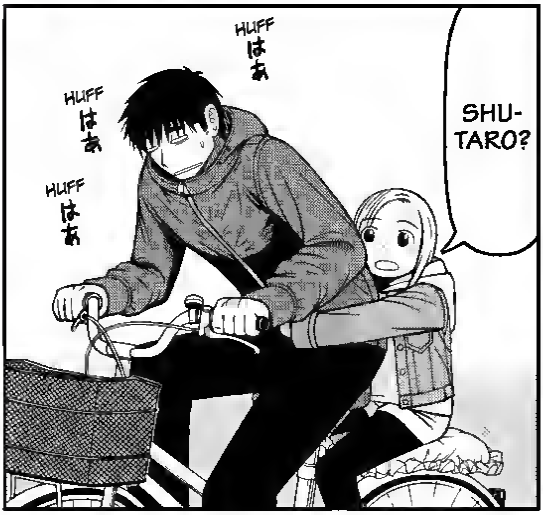
ISN'T THAT A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE?
OH.
THIS IS A PRETTY MAGNIFI-CENT TREE.
WOW.
WHAT?
I'M SURE IT'LL BE BEAUTIFUL IN FULL BLOOM.
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE.

NINA WANTS TO SEE SOMETHING GRANDER!
GRANDER, HUH?
EH, I GUESS YOU CAN HAVE OHANAMI WITH JUST ONE
YOU CAN'T HAVE AN OHANAMI IF THERE AREN'T A LOT!
OKAY
THEN LET'S LOOK A BIT MORE.

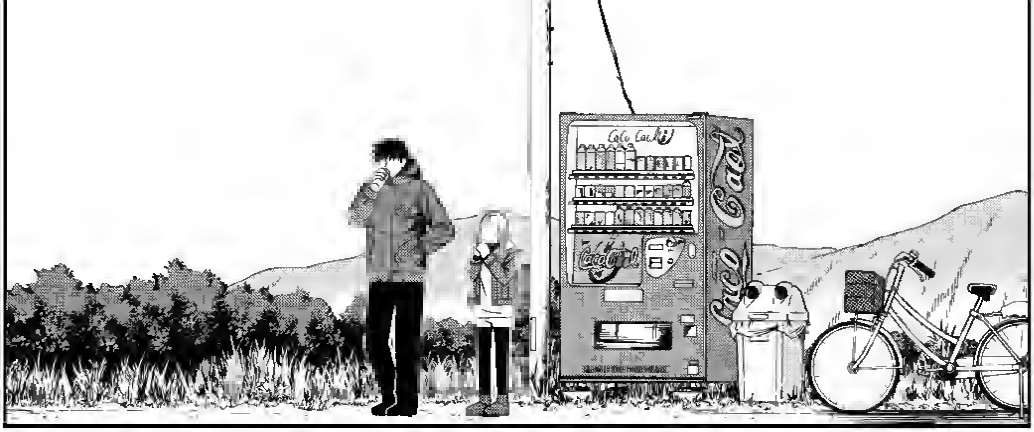




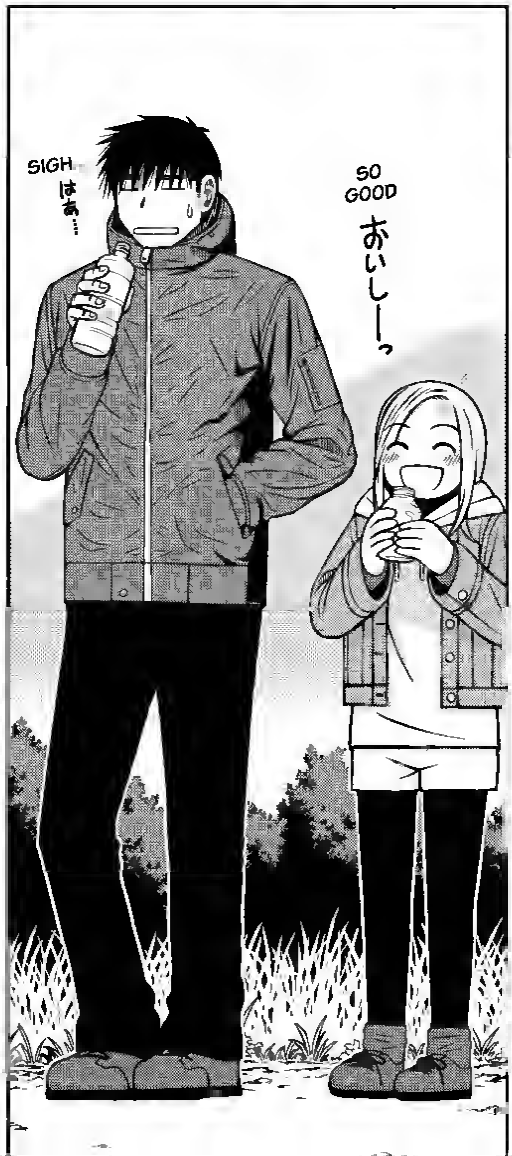
SHU-TARO...
THERE AREN'T ANY CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES

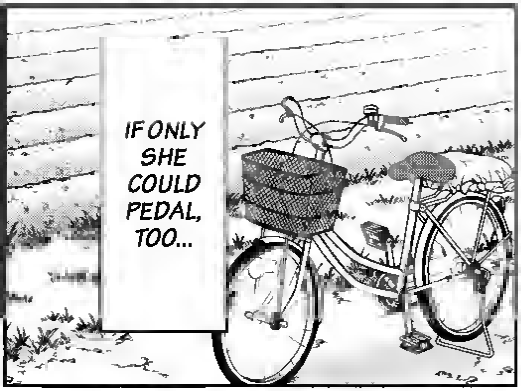

SHU-TARO?
HUFF はあ
HUFF はあ
HUFF はあ

NINA
LET'S TAKE A BREAK AT THAT VENDING MACHINE.



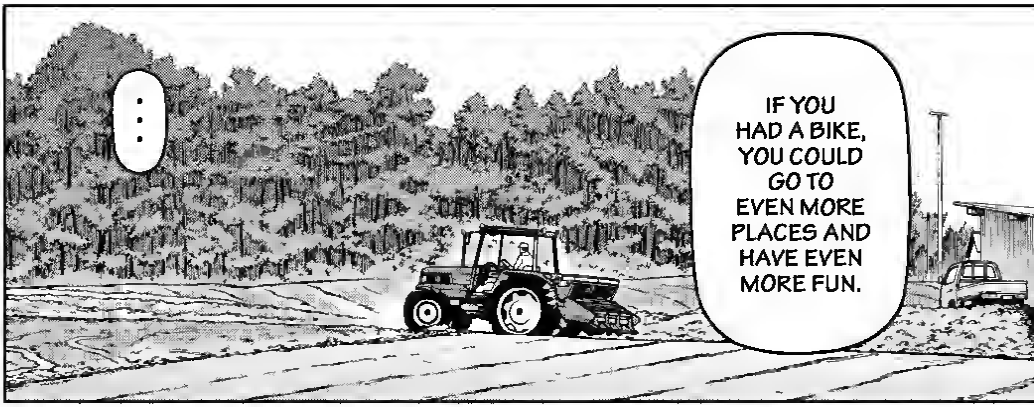
TAKING NINA THIS FAR ON THE BACK OF MY BIKE TO LOOK FOR CHERRY BLOSSOMS IS KIND OF HARD...


SIGH
はぁ…
SO GOOD
おいしー♪


IF ONLY SHE COULD PEDAL, TOO...

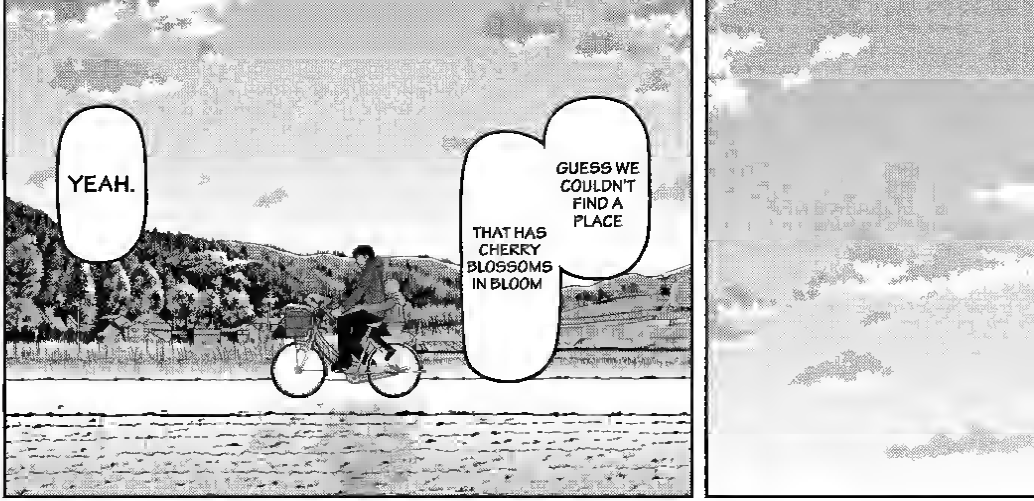
THAT'S IT.
…

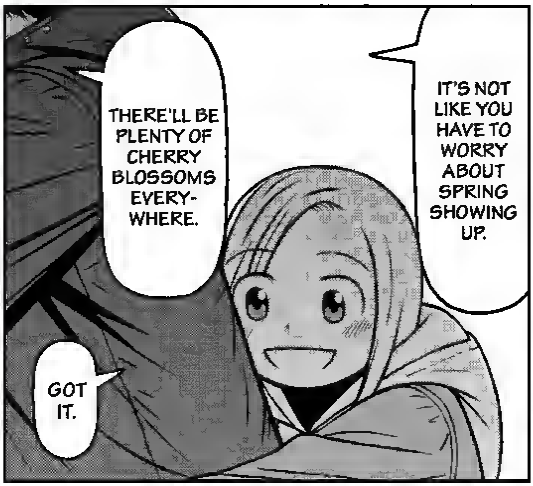
NINA,
DO YOU WANT YOUR OWN BICYCLE?
A BICYCLE?


IF YOU HAD A BIKE, YOU COULD GO TO EVEN MORE PLACES AND HAVE EVEN MORE FUN.
...

BUT...
NINA CAN'T RIDE A BIKE.
IT'S OKAY.
YOU PRACTICED SWIMMING DURING SUMMER VACATION AND NOW YOU CAN ACTUALLY SWIM, CAN'T YOU?
SO I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO RIDE A BIKE

YEAH.
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CHALLENGE YOURSELF, RIGHT?
NINA WANTS A BIKE!
NINA WANTS TO BE ABLE TO RIDE IT.
THEN IT'S SETTLED.
OKAY.
LET'S GO GET ONE TOMORROW


YEAH.
GUESS WE COULDN'T FIND A PLACE THAT HAS CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN BLOOM


THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS EVERY-WHERE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SPRING SHOWING UP.
GOT IT.

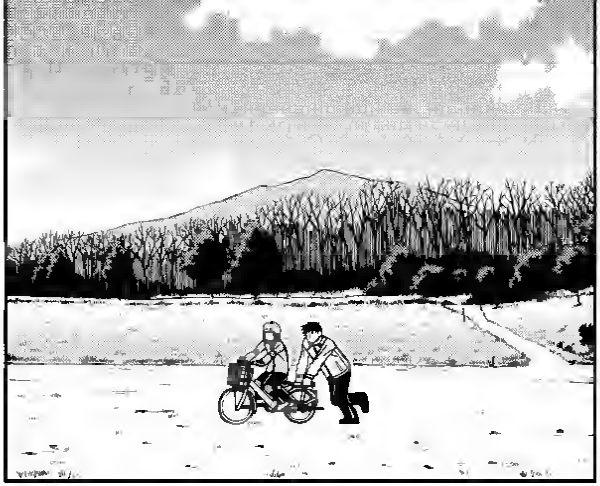
WHEN WE GET BACK, LET'S ASK MY PARENTS ABOUT THAT.

YEAH.
NINA IS EXCITED FOR THE FLOWER VIEWING.
WILL SHE BE ABLE TO RIDE A BIKE IN THE NEXT ISSUE?

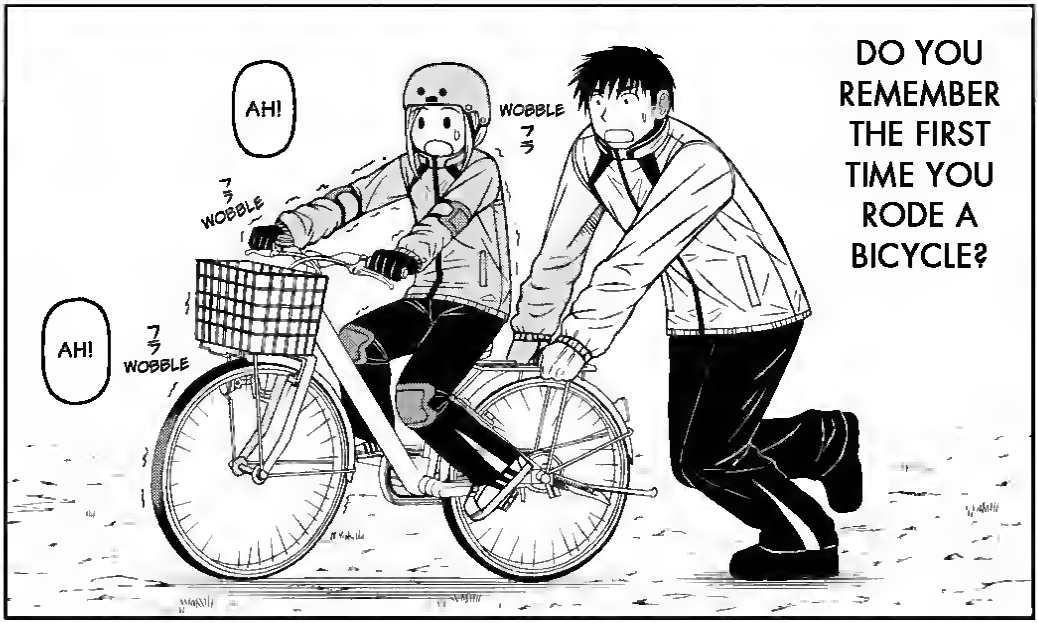
CHAPTER 68

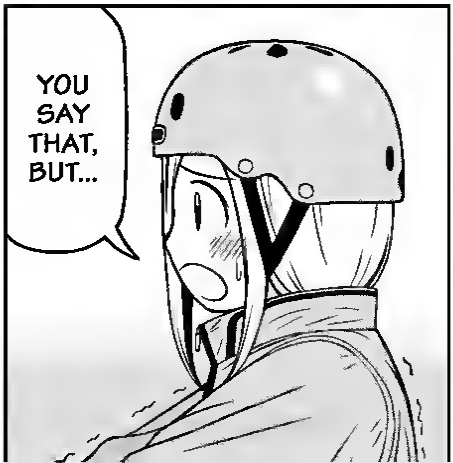
VOICES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

SHE'S FULLY PREPARED, BUT PAINFUL THINGS WILL STILL HURT...



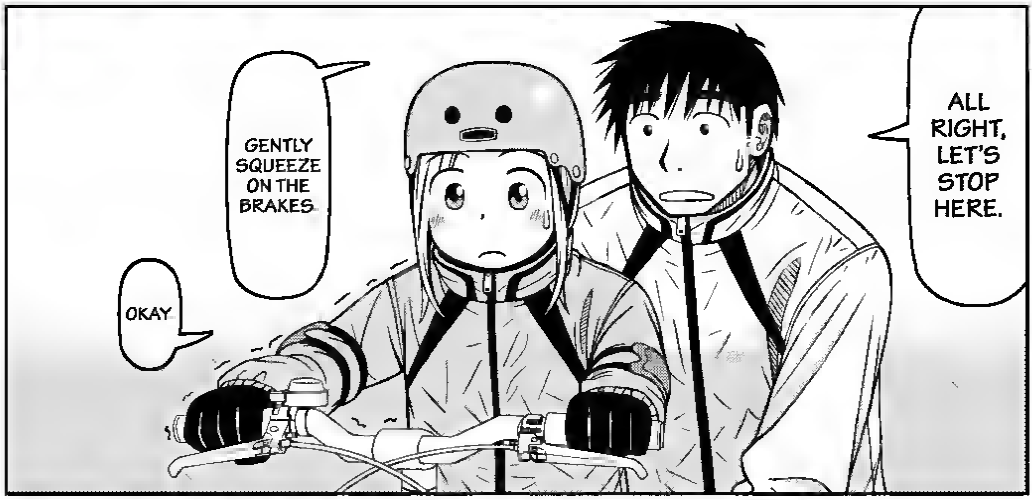
北軽井沢
KITAKARUIZAWA FUREAI PARK
ふれあい広場

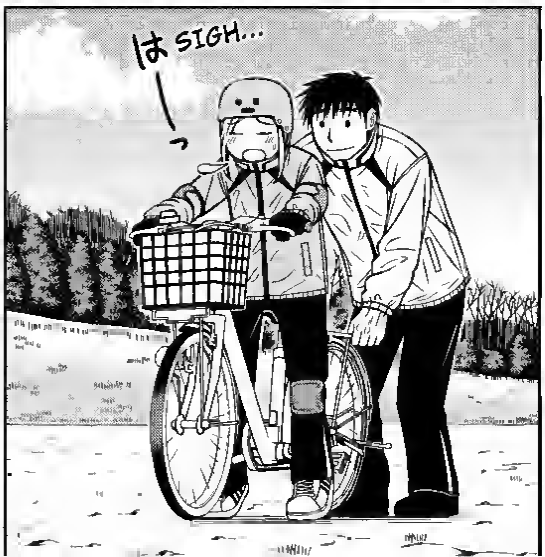

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU RODE A BICYCLE?
AH!
WOBBLE
フラ
AH!
WOBBLE
フラ
WOBBLE
フラ

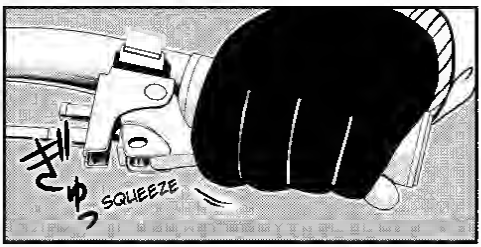

YOU SAY THAT, BUT...

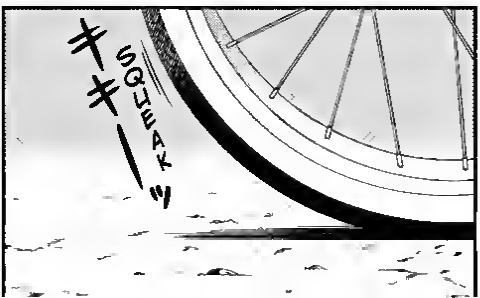
NINA...
YOU'RE SHAKING THE HANDLE-BARS TOO MUCH.

YOUR FEET AREN'T PEDALING.
SHUTARO, PUSH NINA, PUSH NINA!
ER, YOU NEED TO PEDAL


ALL RIGHT, LET'S STOP HERE.
GENTLY SQUEEZE ON THE BRAKES
OKAY

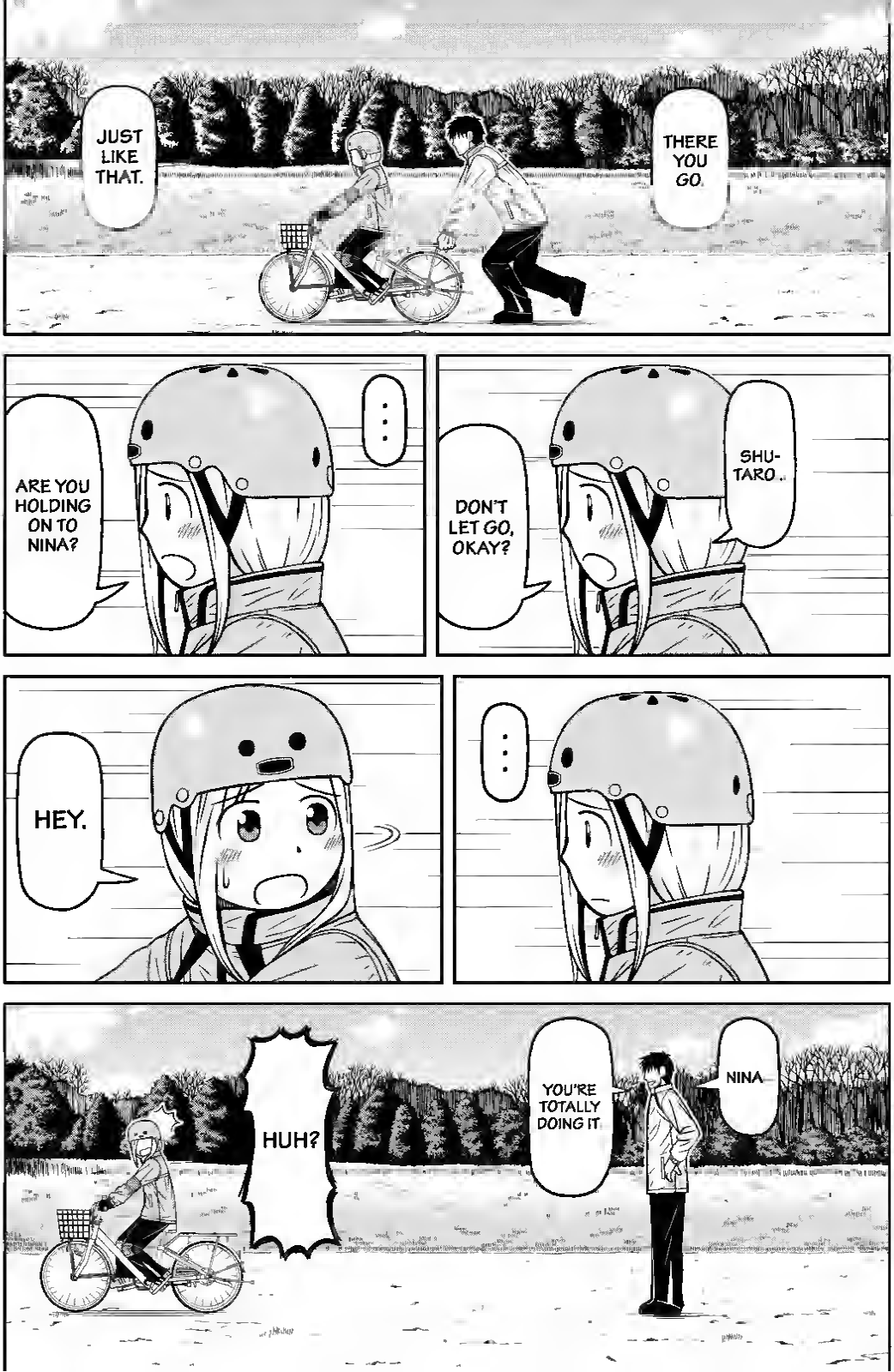

はーっ SIGH...


ぎゅっ SQUEEZE


キキーッ SQUEAK

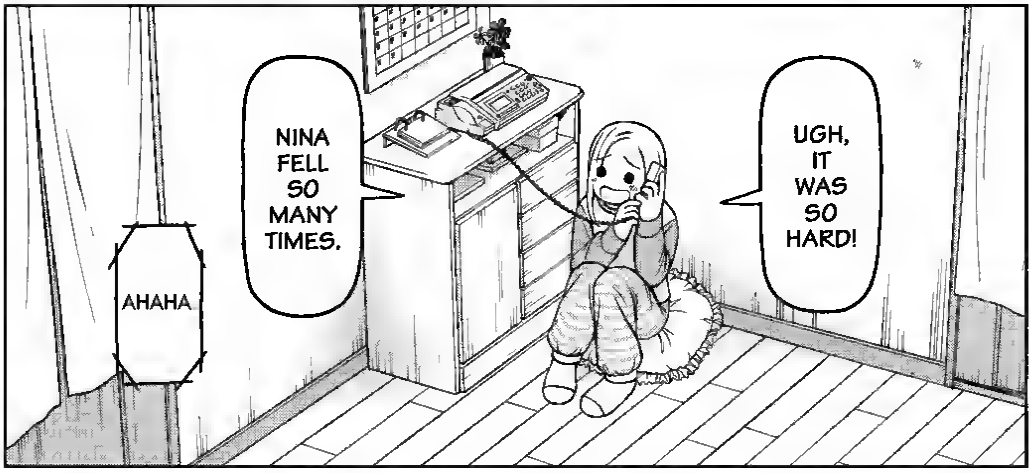
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT YOU RIDE WITHOUT ME HOLDING YOU.
HUH?
BUT NINA'S STILL SCARED.
NINA WILL FALL IF YOU DON'T HOLD HER, SHUTARO.
EVEN IF YOU DO FALL, YOU'VE GOT A HELMET AND PADS ON.
YOU WILL BE FINE.
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO GET ANY BETTER IF YOU'RE SCARED OF FALLING.

ALL RIGHT, FINE.
JUST HOLD NINA, SHUTARO
JUST FOR A BIT LONGER.
OKAY
OKAY, HERE WE GO!
READY, SET...
GO!


JUST LIKE THAT.
THERE YOU GO.
ARE YOU HOLDING ON TO NINA?
...
DON'T LET GO, OKAY?
SHU-TARO..
HEY.
...
HUH?
YOU'RE TOTALLY DOING IT
NINA

CRASH
OH.
ERGH.
ACK.
YOU OKAY?
UGH, SHUTARO, YOU LIAR!
NINA TOLD YOU NOT TO LET GO!
SORRY

FALLING DIDN'T HURT TOO MUCH, DID IT?
YES, IT DID!
WELL, EVERY-ONE GETS BETTER BY FALLING
U—
OKAY, LET'S TRY AGAIN.
YUP.
ガンバル
NINA WILL DO HER BEST.
ガンバル
YOU CAN DO THIS.
CRASH
ガシャン!!
CRASH
ガシャ!!

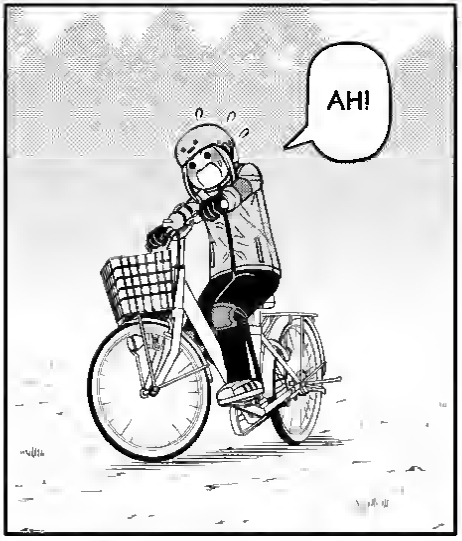

UGH, IT WAS SO HARD!
NINA FELL SO MANY TIMES.
AHAHA

I'VE ACTUALLY RIDDEN PRETTY FAR BY MYSELF.
THOUGH I DID GET A FLAT ON THE WAY BACK, WHICH SUCKED.
WOW...
CAN YOU RIDE A BIKE, ARISA-CHAN?
OF COURSE.
THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT IT MEANS TO PRACTICE RIDING A BIKE.

OH, RIGHT.
OKAY.
ONCE YOU'RE ABLE TO RIDE A BIKE, LET'S GO SOME-WHERE TOGETHER.
HUH?
MAYBE I'LL COME WATCH YOU PRACTICE.
WHAT?
I'LL INVITE KOHINATA TO COME WITH ME TO WATCH YOU TOMORROW
WELL, YOU GOT TO SEE ME LOOK LAME DURING OUR SKATING CLASS.
NINA KEEPS FALLING, WHICH IS EMBAR-RASSING, SO NO.
おかえしだ
THIS IS PAYBACK

NICE!
OKAY
I'M LETTING GO.
WHOOSH
はっ

YOU CAN DO IT, NINA!
SHIMA-ZAKI-SAN,
IF YOU PEDAL HARDER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE BETTER.


AH!

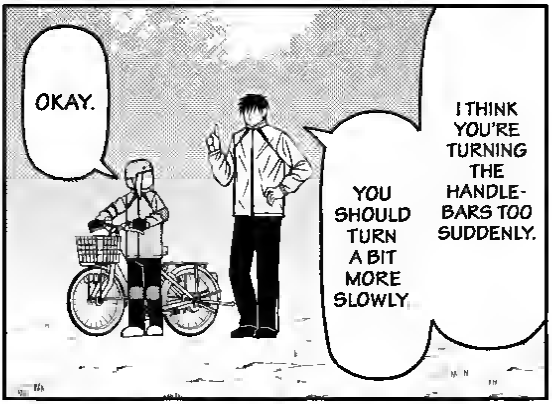
NINA!
YOU SHOULD START TURNING RIGHT.

AW, MAN...
OH, NO!
CRASH
CONVES
STAR

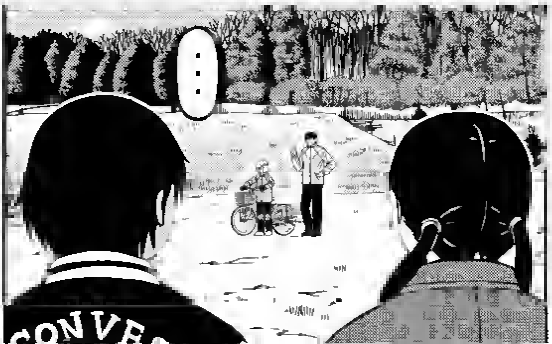
AT LEAST YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER AT GOING STRAIGHT.

YOU OKAY?
YEAH.

BUT YOU KEEP LOSING YOUR BALANCE WHEN YOU TURN.


OKAY.
I THINK YOU'RE TURNING THE HANDLE-BARS TOO SUDDENLY.
YOU SHOULD TURN A BIT MORE SLOWLY.

NINA'S NOT GETTING IT AT ALL.
EVERY-ONE'S LIKE THAT WHEN THEY START OUT.
LET'S CHEER HER ON.


...

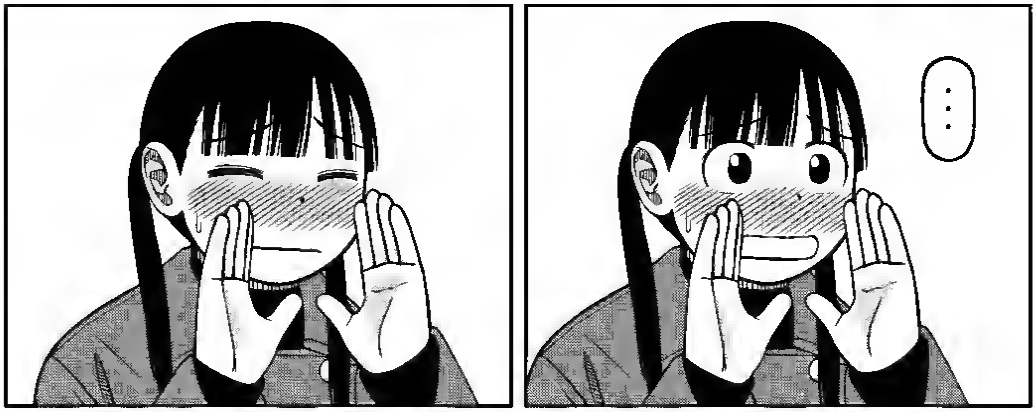
EH?
...BUT DOESN'T IT FEEL A BIT WEIRD TO SAY, "SHIMAZAKI-SAN" WHEN SHUTARO-SAN'S HERE?
CHEERING HER ON IS FINE AND ALL...

NO, IT WOULDN'T
WOULDN'T CALLING HER THAT BE OVERLY PERSONAL?
BUT I'M NOT...
YOU SHOULD JUST CALL HER "NINA."

HEY, THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY.

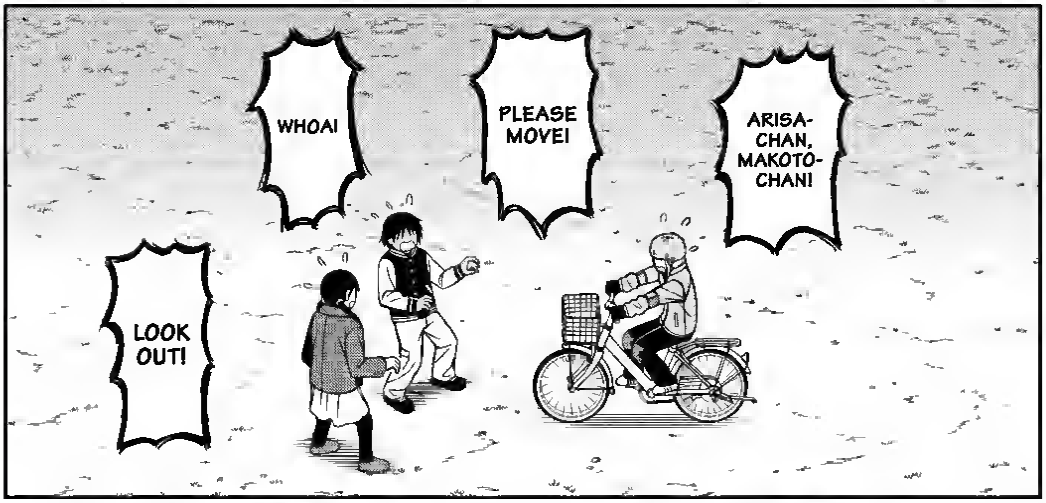
YES...
YOU'RE HER FRIEND, RIGHT?

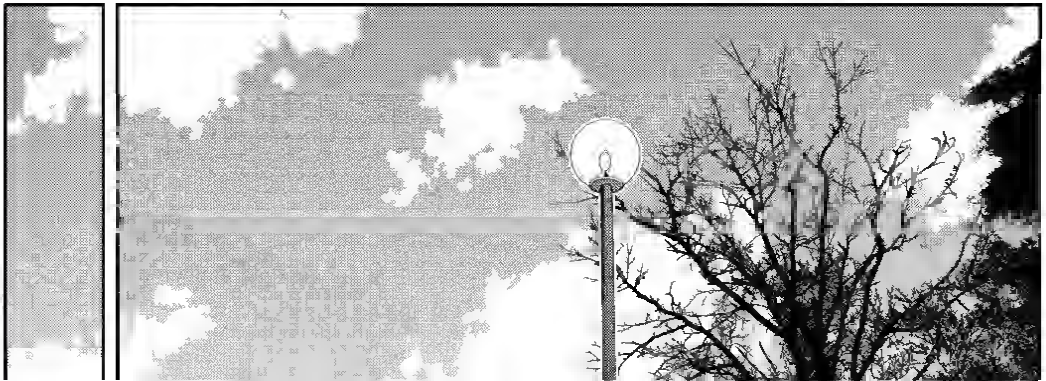
SHE'S LOOKING PRETTY UNSTABLE.
フラフラしてる…
SHE'S REALLY WOBBLY.
SHIMA
LOOKING DOWN WILL JUST MAKE IT MORE SCARY.
LOOK STRAIGHT, IN FRONT OF YOU!


…

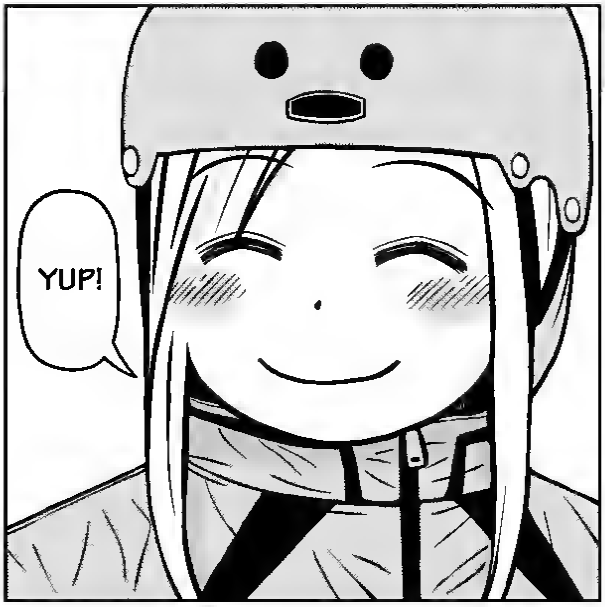
YOU CAN DO IT, NINA!

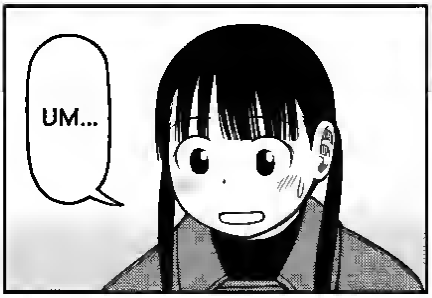
YEAH!

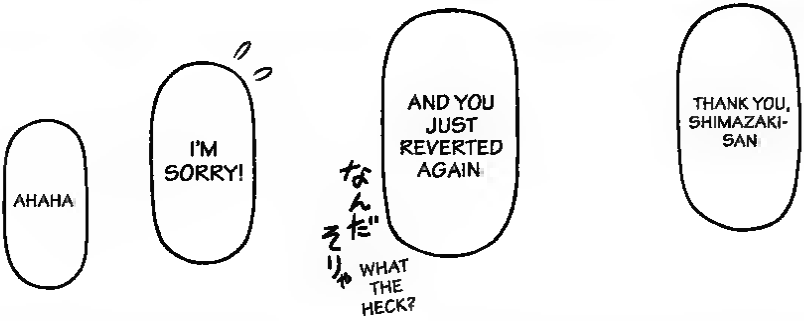

WHOA!
PLEASE MOVE!
ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN!
LOOK OUT!



THANKS FOR COMING TO WATCH NINA PRACTICE TODAY.
BECAUSE YOU TWO SHOWED UP...
SHE SEEMED EVEN MORE EAGER TO PRACTICE.
RIGHT?
YUP.
NINA WAS ABLE TO DO HER BEST BECAUSE ARISA-CHAN
AND MAKOTO-CHAN CHEERED HER ON.
THAT'S GOOD.
GREAT.

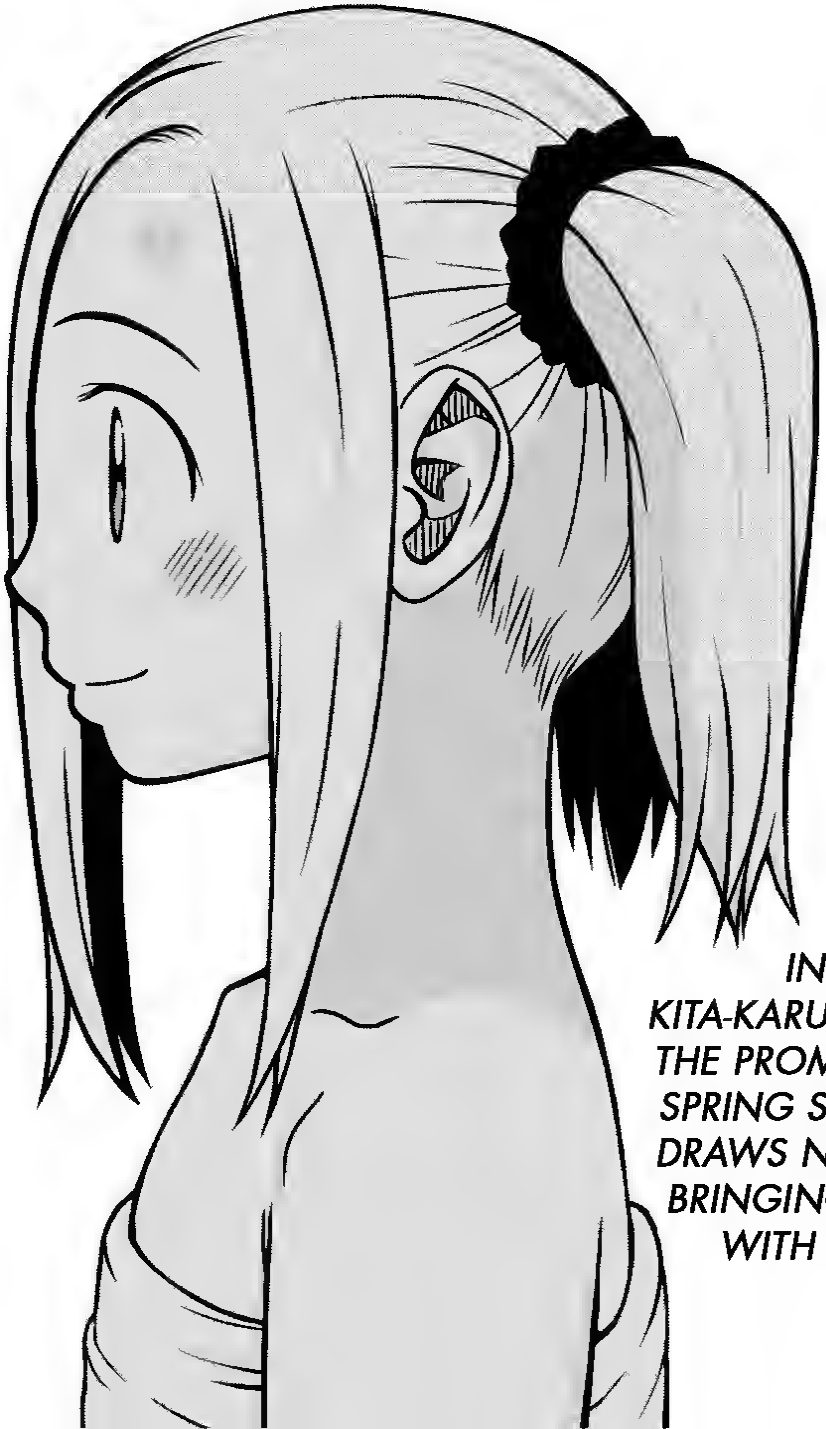




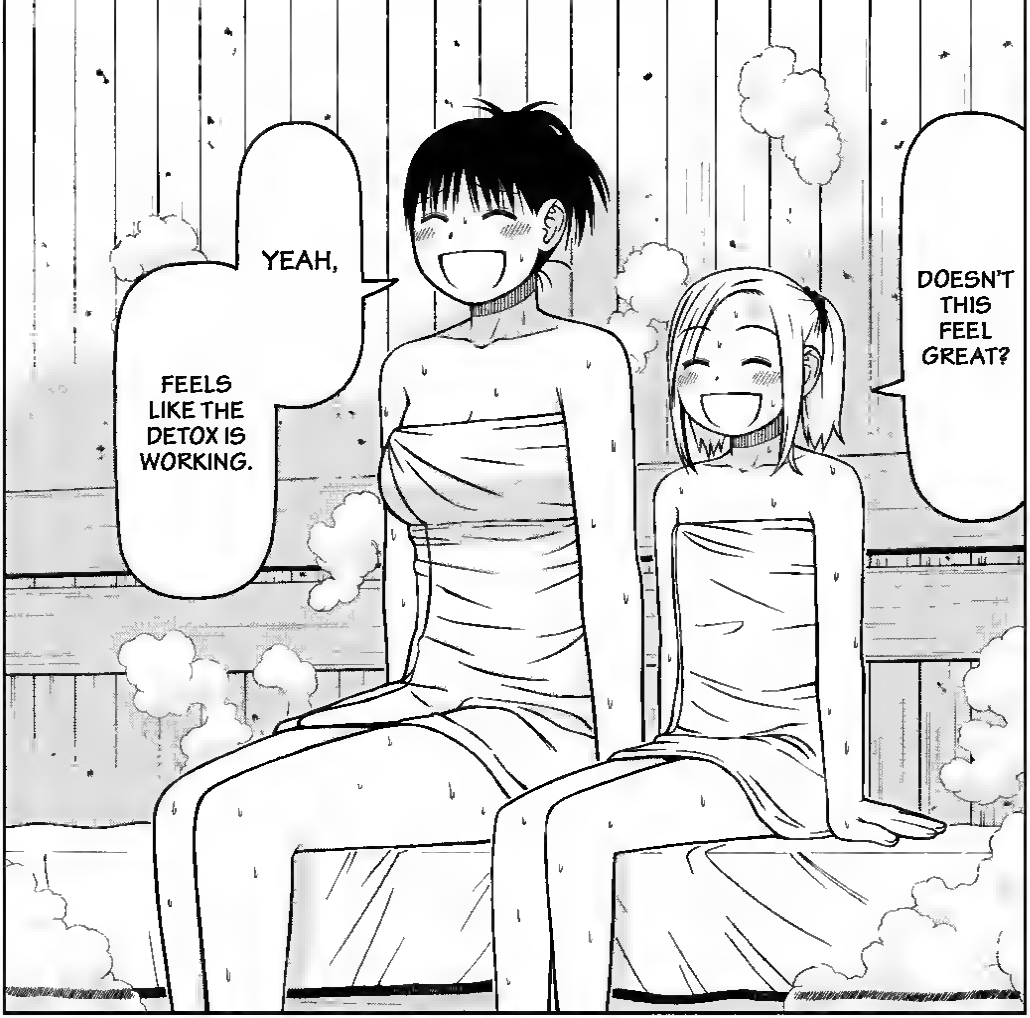


I HAVE A FEELING NINA'S WORLD IS GOING TO GET BIGGER!

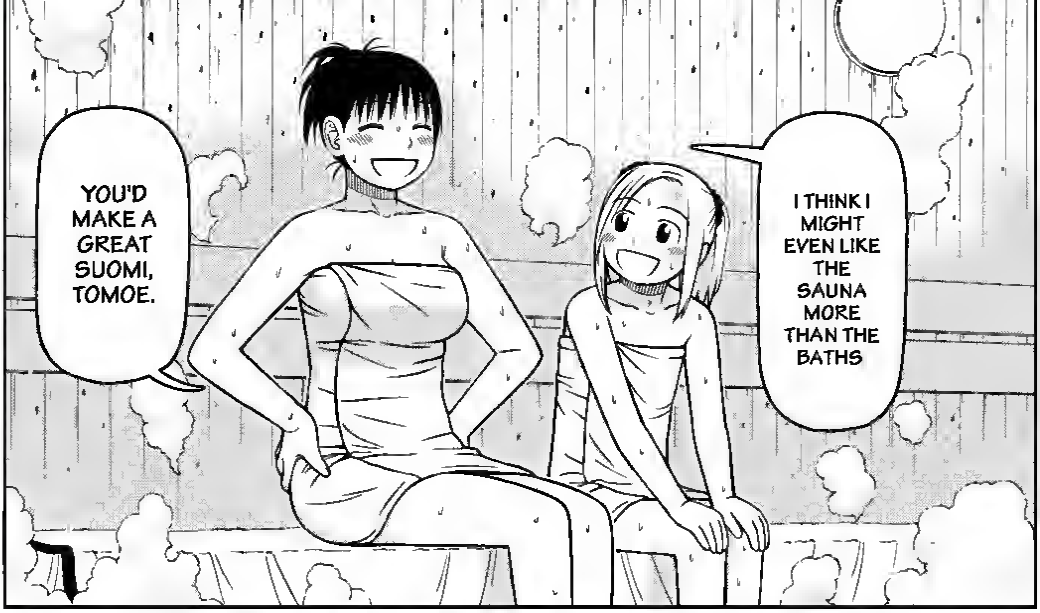
CHAPTER 69 CAN'T WAIT FOR SPRING

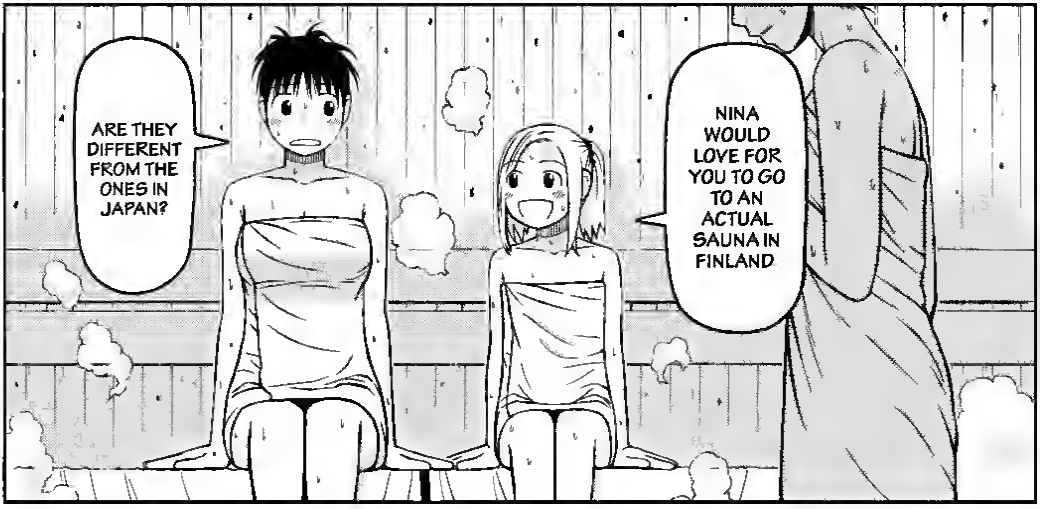


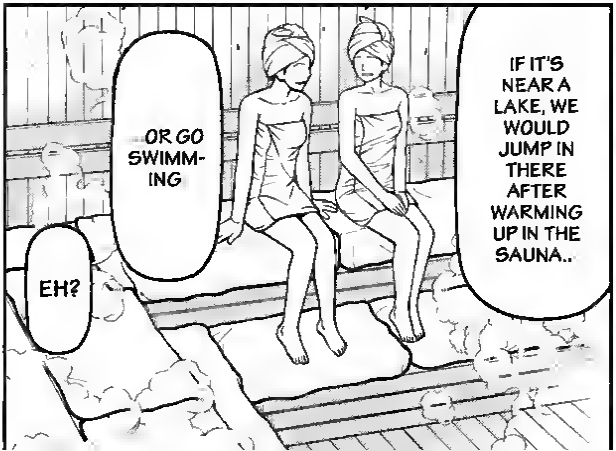
NINA LOVES SAUNASI AND EVEN TOMOE, WHO NEARLY FAINTED BEFORE, IS NOW...
サウナ
SAUNA
温泉入口
HOT SPRINGS ENTRANCE
SIGH...

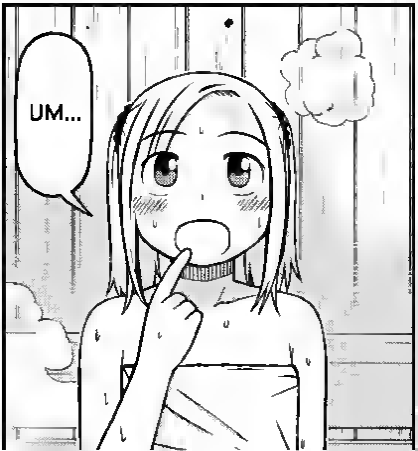

DOESN'T THIS FEEL GREAT?
YEAH, FEELS LIKE THE DETOX IS WORKING.

IT LOOKS LIKE...
YOU'VE GOTTEN USED TO THE SAUNA, TOMOE.
LOOKS LIKE I GOT USED TO HANG-ING OUT WITH YOU, NINA.

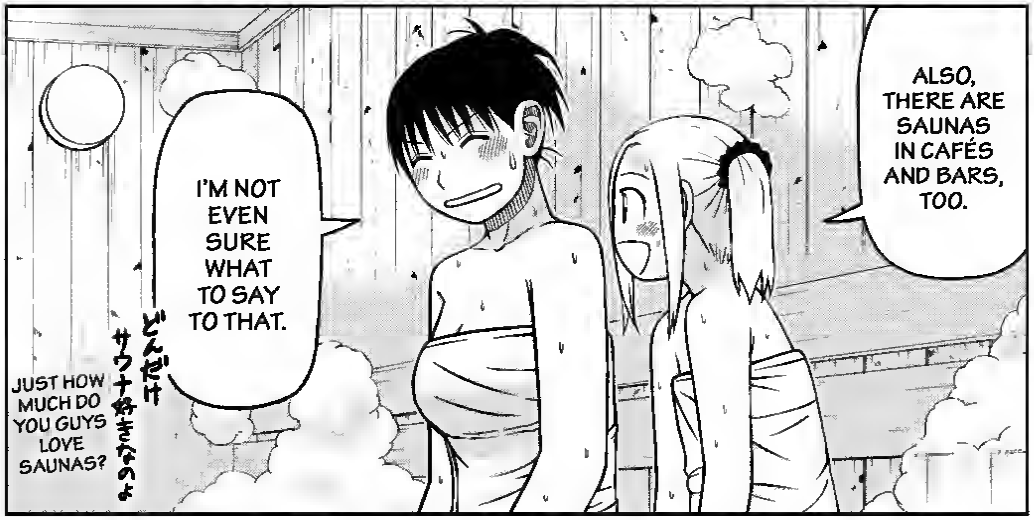

YOU'D MAKE A GREAT SUOMI, TOMOE.
I THINK I MIGHT EVEN LIKE THE SAUNA MORE THAN THE BATHS

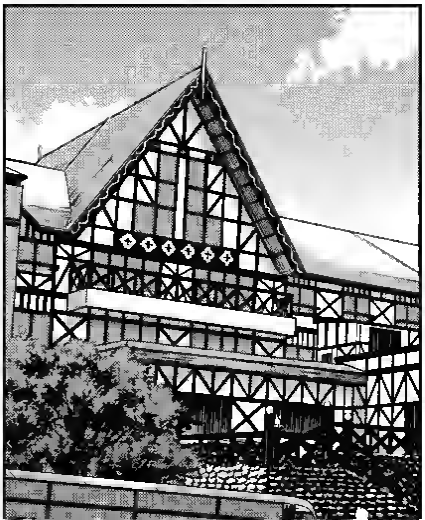

ARE THEY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES IN JAPAN?
NINA WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO GO TO AN ACTUAL SAUNA IN FINLAND


EH?
OR GO SWIMM-ING
IF IT'S NEAR A LAKE, WE WOULD JUMP IN THERE AFTER WARMING UP IN THE SAUNA..


UM...

FINNISH PEOPLE MUST BE PRETTY WILD.
...OR JUMP INTO THE SNOW.
SINCE THE LAKES ARE FROZEN IN THE WINTER, WE CUT A HOLE IN THE ICE AND JUMP IN...
ALL THIS JUMPING IN...
とびこんでばっかり…

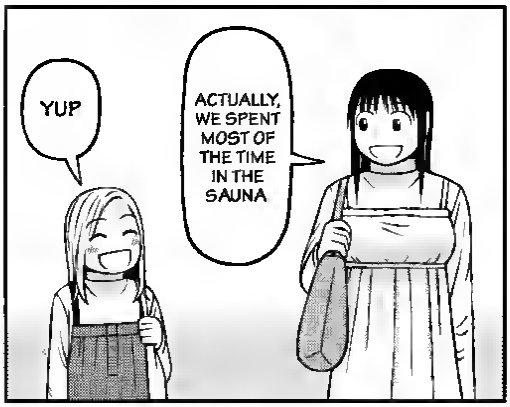

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT TO SAY TO THAT.
ALSO, THERE ARE SAUNAS IN CAFÉS AND BARS, TOO.
JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU GUYS LOVE SAUNAS?
どんだけサウナ好きなのよ

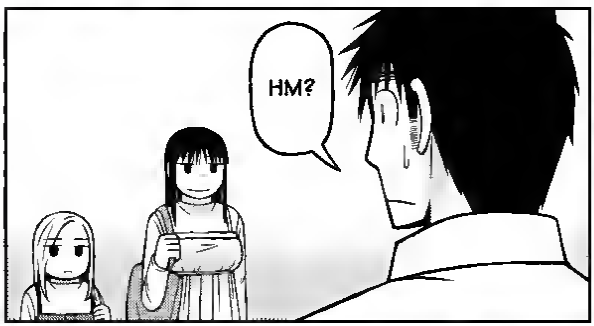


BUT I'D LOVE TO USE A VIHTA ONCE.
YEAH, THEY FEEL REALLY GOOD

YOU GUYS WERE IN THE HOT SPRINGS FOR QUITE A WHILE

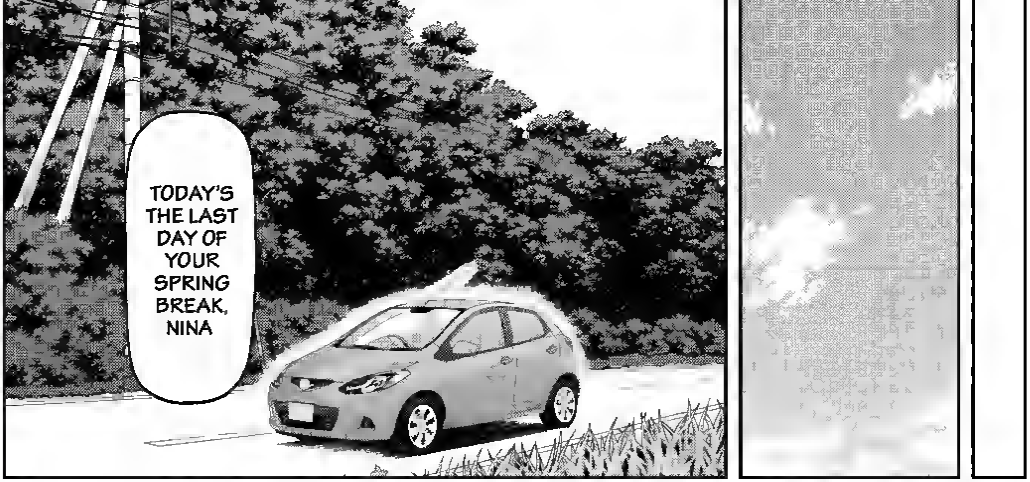
THANKS FOR WAITING, SHUTARO
SURE

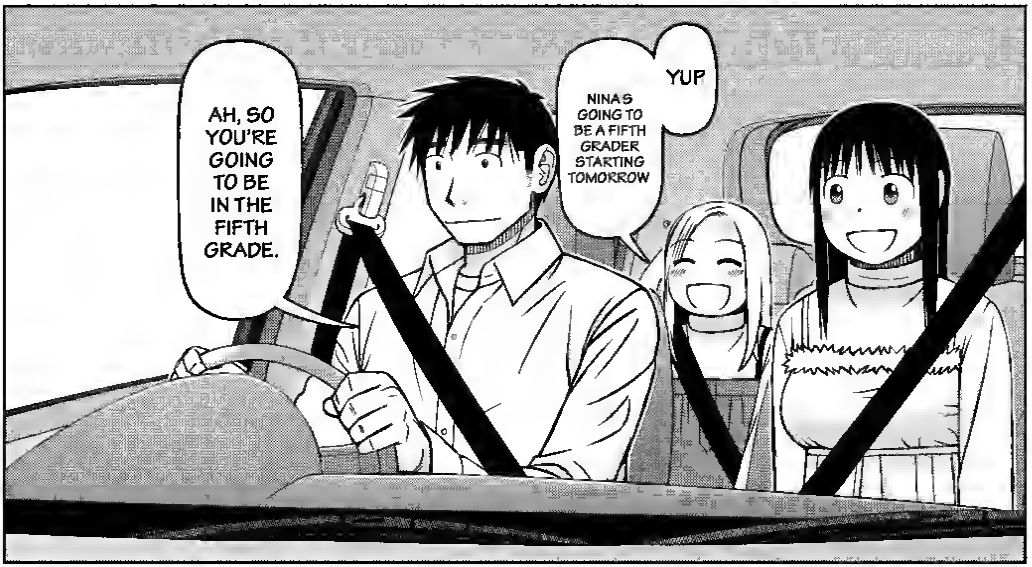

YUP
ACTUALLY, WE SPENT MOST OF THE TIME IN THE SAUNA

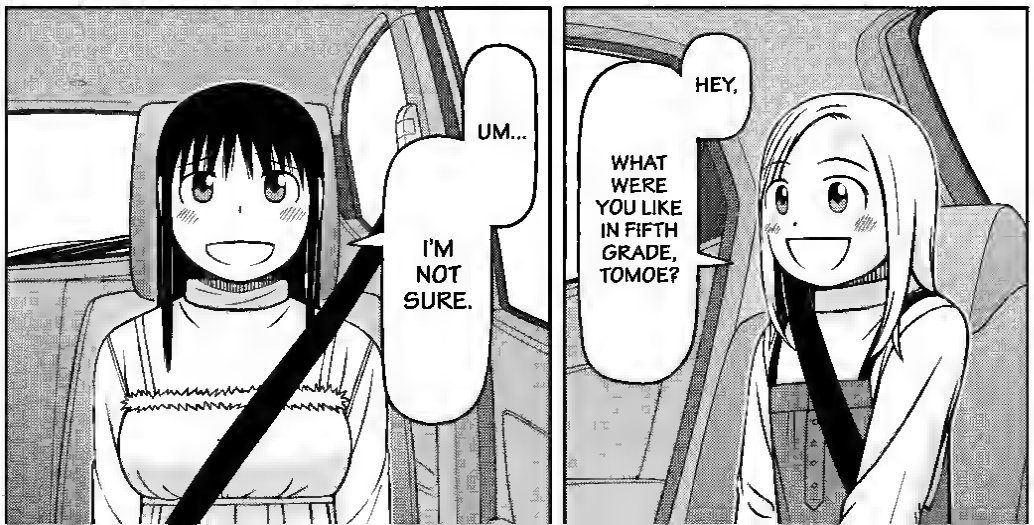

HM?

HA HA
I'D PREFER TO RELAX IN AN OUTDOOR BATH RATHER THAN IN A SAUNA

SHU'S STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
SHUTARO COULD NEVER BE A SUOMI.
WHA?

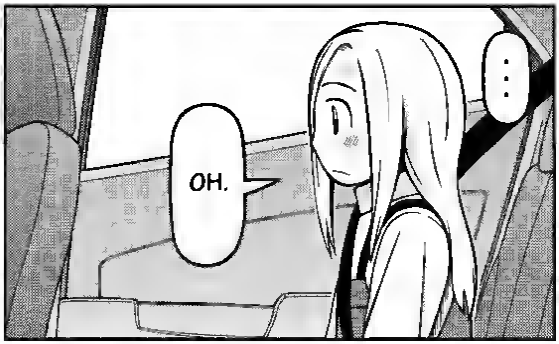

TODAY'S THE LAST DAY OF YOUR SPRING BREAK, NINA


AH, SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE FIFTH GRADE.
NINA'S GOING TO BE A FIFTH GRADER STARTING TOMORROW
YUP


UM...
I'M NOT SURE.
HEY,
WHAT WERE YOU LIKE IN FIFTH GRADE, TOMOE?

ER,
THERE WAS A BOY IDOL GROUP THAT I REALLY LIKED AT THE TIME.
I USED TO SAVE UP MY ALLOWANCE TO BUY THEIR CDS AND MERCHANDISE
I'D ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO WATCH ANY TV SHOWS THEY WERE IN.
AND THEN WE'D TALK ABOUT IT THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL, AND IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
I ASKED MY DAD IF I COULD JOIN THEIR FAN CLUB...
...AND HE YELLED AT ME,
AND SAID I WAS TOO YOUNG FOR THAT.
Love

HUH?
YOU WERE AN IDOL OTAKU, TOMOE?


OH.
...

DON'T KIDS DO THAT NOWA-DAYS?
HUH?

I SEE.
NOPE.
DO YOU NOT LIKE ANY BOY IDOLS, NINA?

I-I WAS NORMAL
ALL THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS LIKED THEM
WE WOULD ALL TALK ABOUT WHICH ONE WAS OUR FAVORITE.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR STORY WASN'T MUCH OF A HIT,
TOMOE
HAHA
HUH

WELL...

WHAT WERE YOU LIKE, SHUTARO?

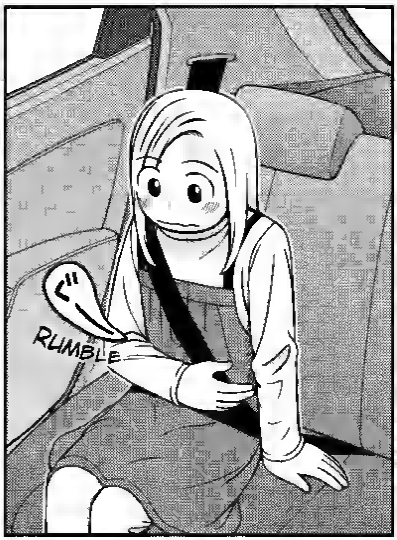
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE MORE MATURE THAN THE OTHER KIDS

IT WAS POPULAR FOR BOYS TO PLAY GAMES OR COLLECT CARDS.
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANY OF THAT.
INSTEAD, I SPENT ALL MY TIME GOING FISHING.

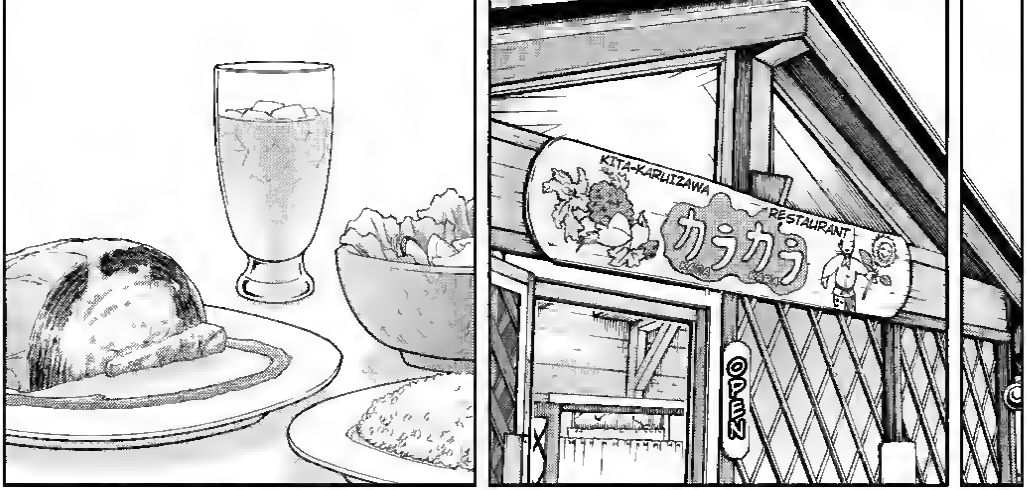
WHA?
はあ?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHEN YOU WERE IN FIFTH GRADE...
YOU WERE A LITTLE BRAT WITH SNOT HANGING OUT OF YOUR NOSE
R-
REALLY?
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE IN FIFTH GRADE, YOU WERE PLAYING COPS AND ROBBERS...
PUTTING BUGS IN GIRLS' DESKS...
...AND GETTING CALLED BY THE TEACHER AND GETTING YELLED AT
YOU WERE AWFUL, SHUTARO.
SORRY

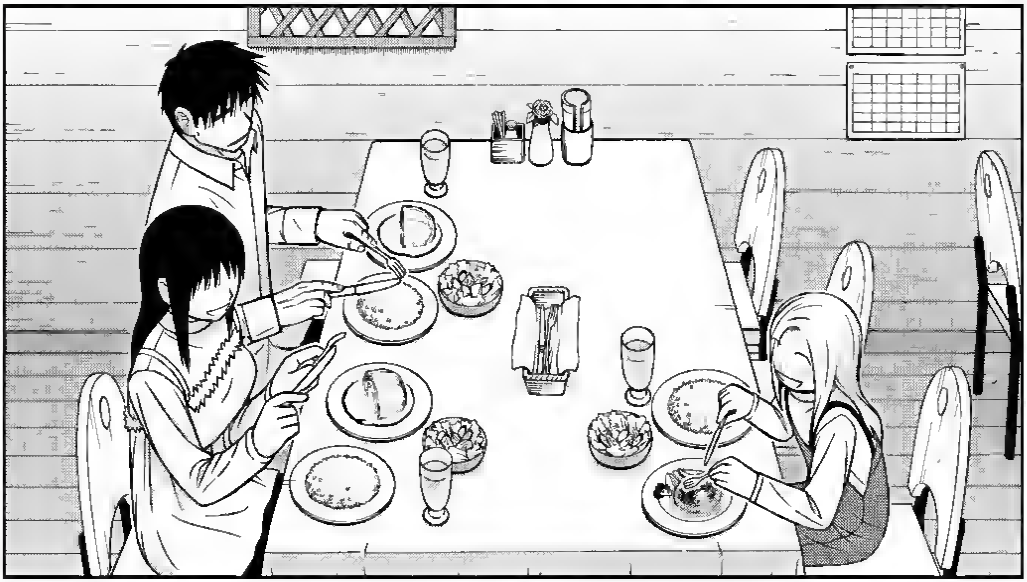
WELL, THE GIRLS STARTED GETTING A LITTLE MORE MATURE IN FIFTH GRADE...
...BUT THE BOYS WERE STILL PRETTY CHILDISH
EXACTLY.

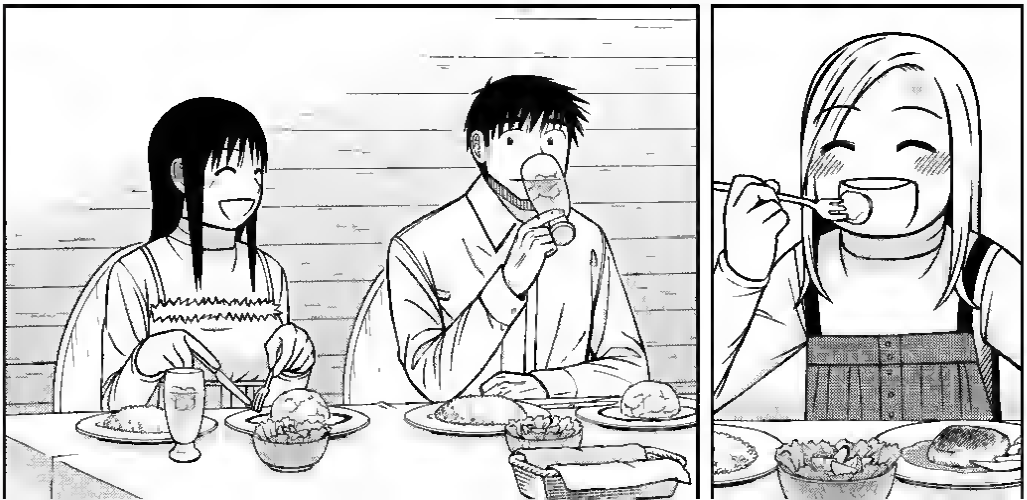
SHUTARO, NINA IS HUNGRY
ALL RIGHT

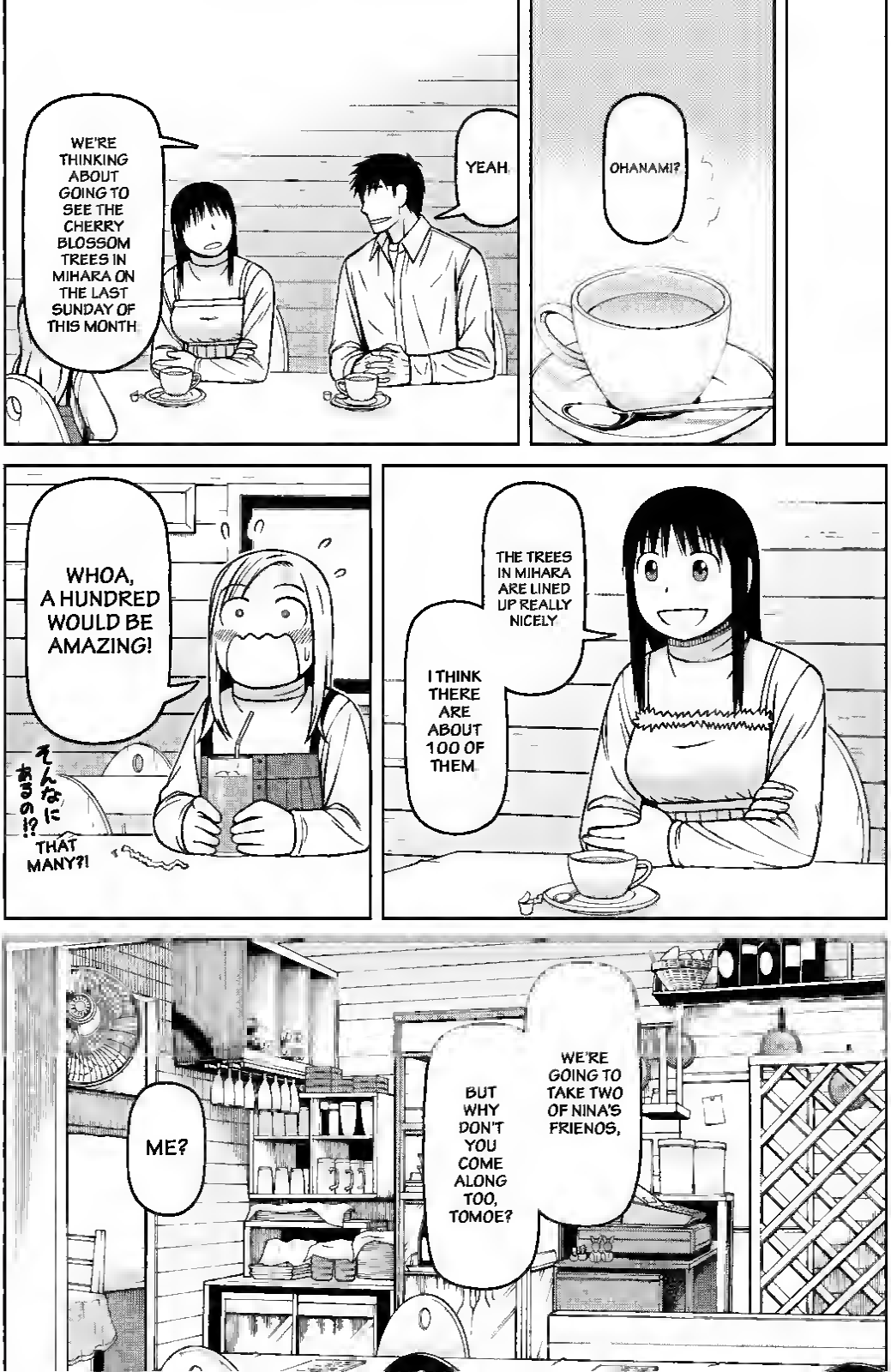

RUMBLE

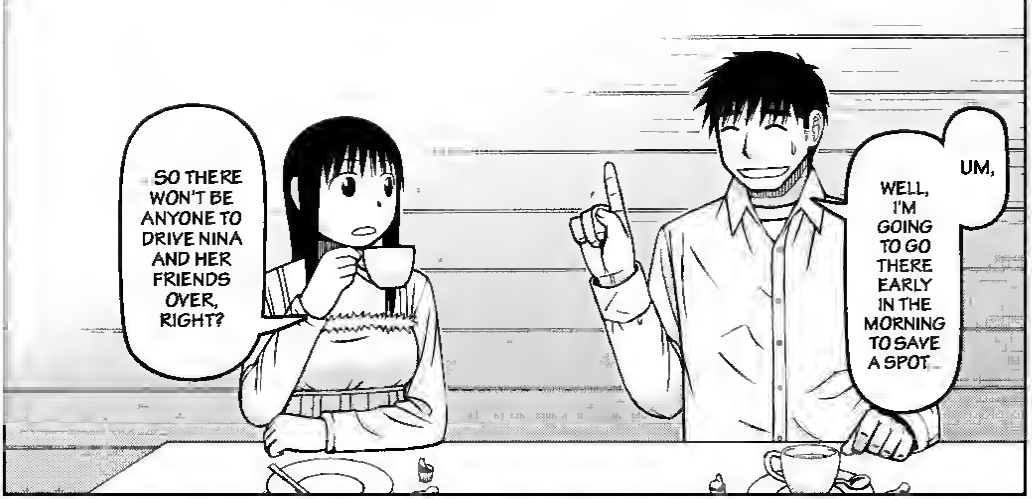
THEN LET'S GO GET SOMETHING LIGHT TO EAT
AGREED!

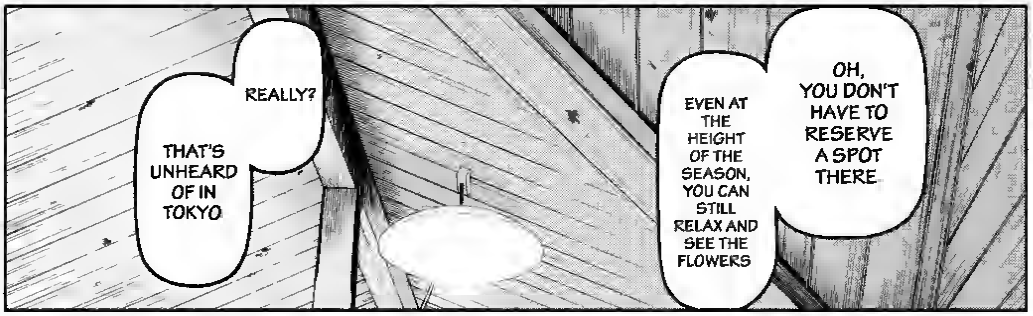

KITA-KARUIZAWA
RESTAURANT
カラカラ
OPEN

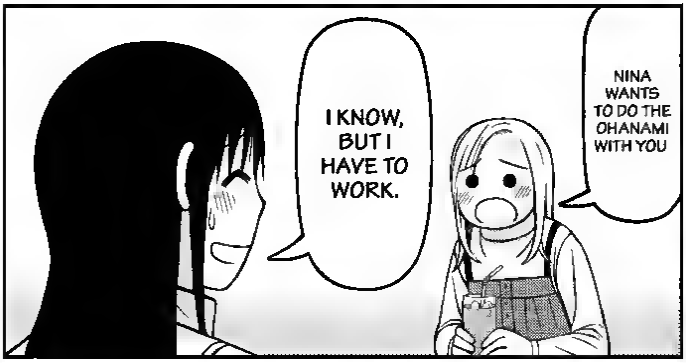





WE'RE THINKING ABOUT GOING TO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES IN MIHARA ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THIS MONTH
YEAH
OHANAMI?
WHOA, A HUNDRED WOULD BE AMAZING!
そんなにあるの!?
THAT MANY?!
THE TREES IN MIHARA ARE LINED UP REALLY NICELY
I THINK THERE ARE ABOUT 100 OF THEM
ME?
BUT WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG TOO, TOMOE?
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE TWO OF NINA'S FRIENDS,

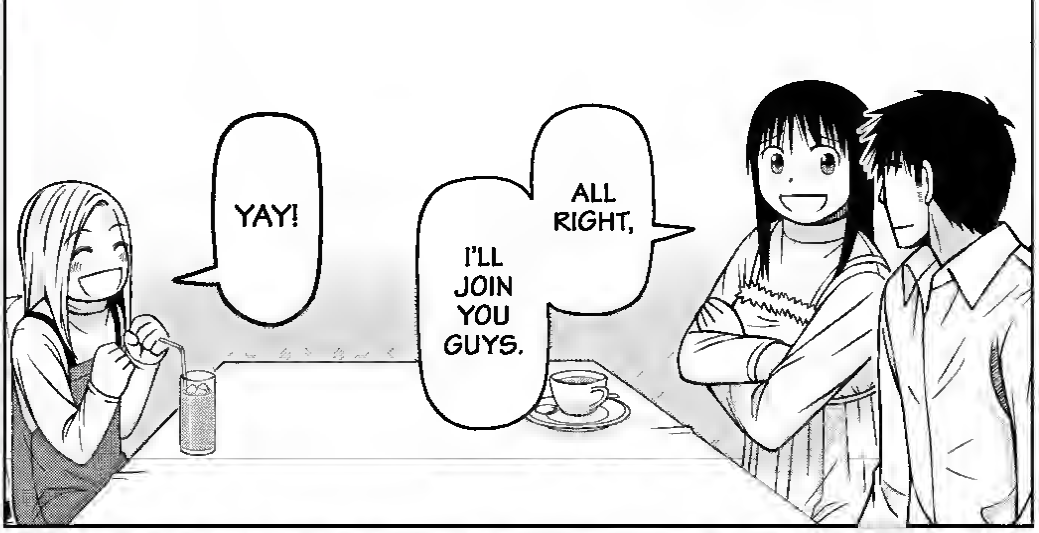

UM,
WELL, I'M GOING TO GO THERE EARLY IN THE MORNING TO SAVE A SPOT
SO THERE WON'T BE ANYONE TO DRIVE NINA AND HER FRIENDS OVER, RIGHT?


OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO RESERVE A SPOT THERE
EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF THE SEASON, YOU CAN STILL RELAX AND SEE THE FLOWERS
REALLY?
THAT'S UNHEARD OF IN TOKYO

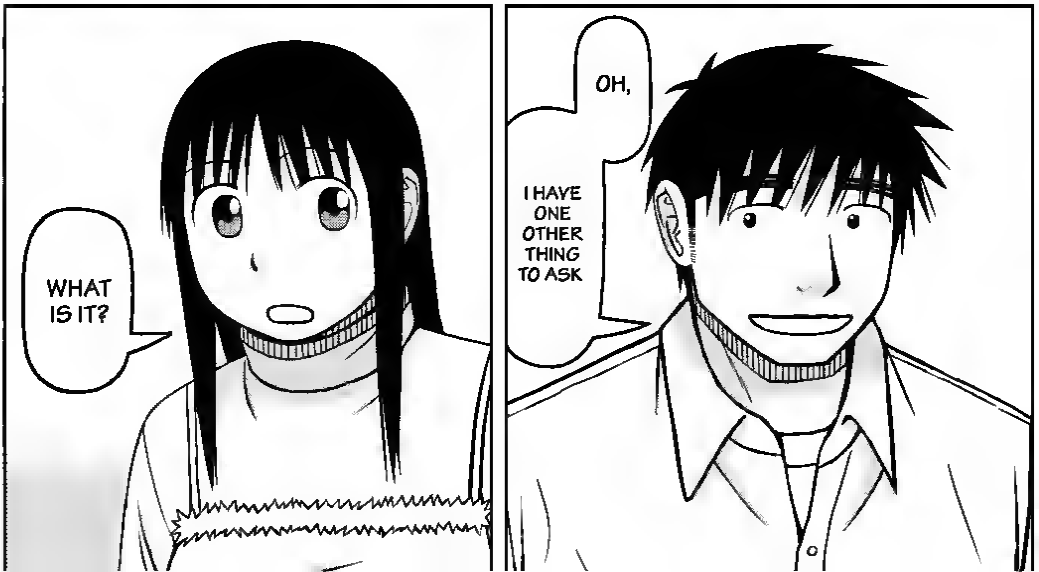

NINA WANTS TO DO THE OHANAMI WITH YOU
I KNOW, BUT I HAVE TO WORK.

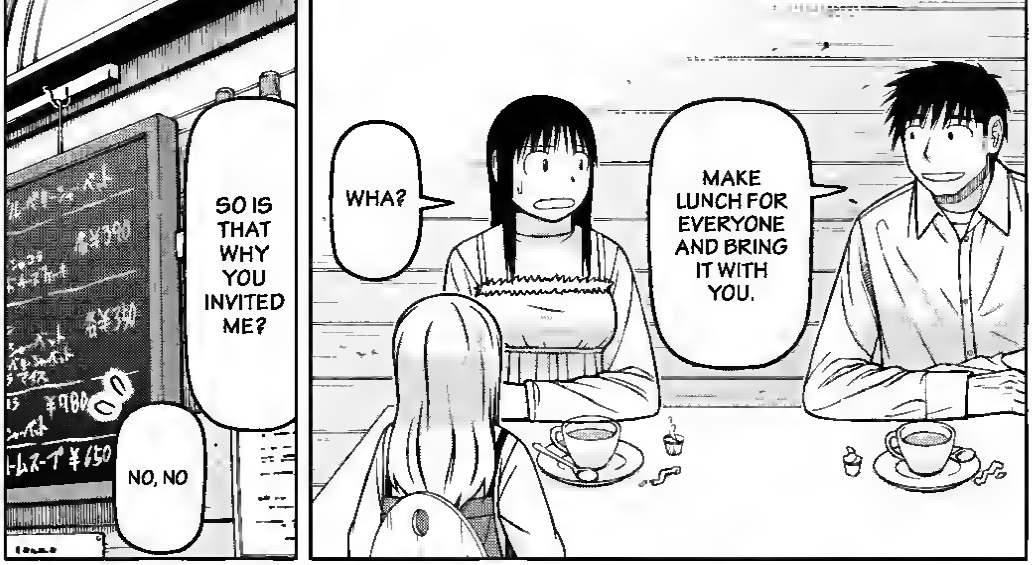
PLUS, I HAVE TO WORK AT YOUR DAD'S SHOP
AW...

NINA'S RIGHT, YOU SHOULD COME.
I'LL TALK TO MY DAD ABOUT YOUR SHIFT.

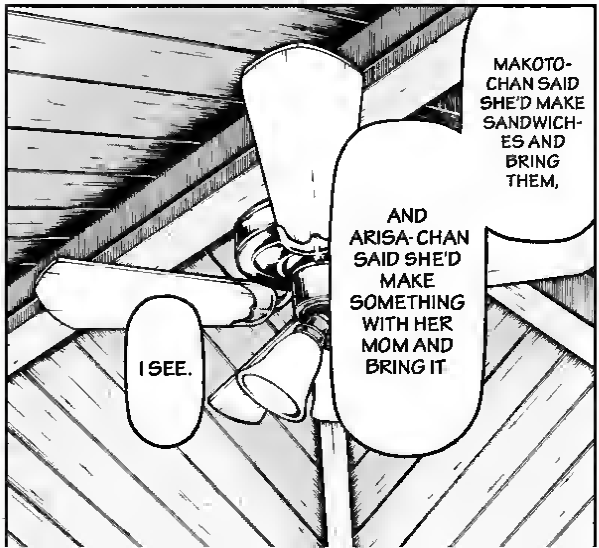

YAY!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL JOIN YOU GUYS.

THANKS, TOMOE
I CAN'T REALLY SAY NO TO NINA-CHAN.


WHAT IS IT?
OH, I HAVE ONE OTHER THING TO ASK


SO IS THAT WHY YOU INVITED ME?
NO, NO
WHA?
MAKE LUNCH FOR EVERYONE AND BRING IT WITH YOU.

OH, I SEE.
I THOUGHT THAT IF EVERYONE BROUGHT SOME-THING TO EAT,
THERE'D BE SOME VARIETY, WHICH WOULD BE FUN

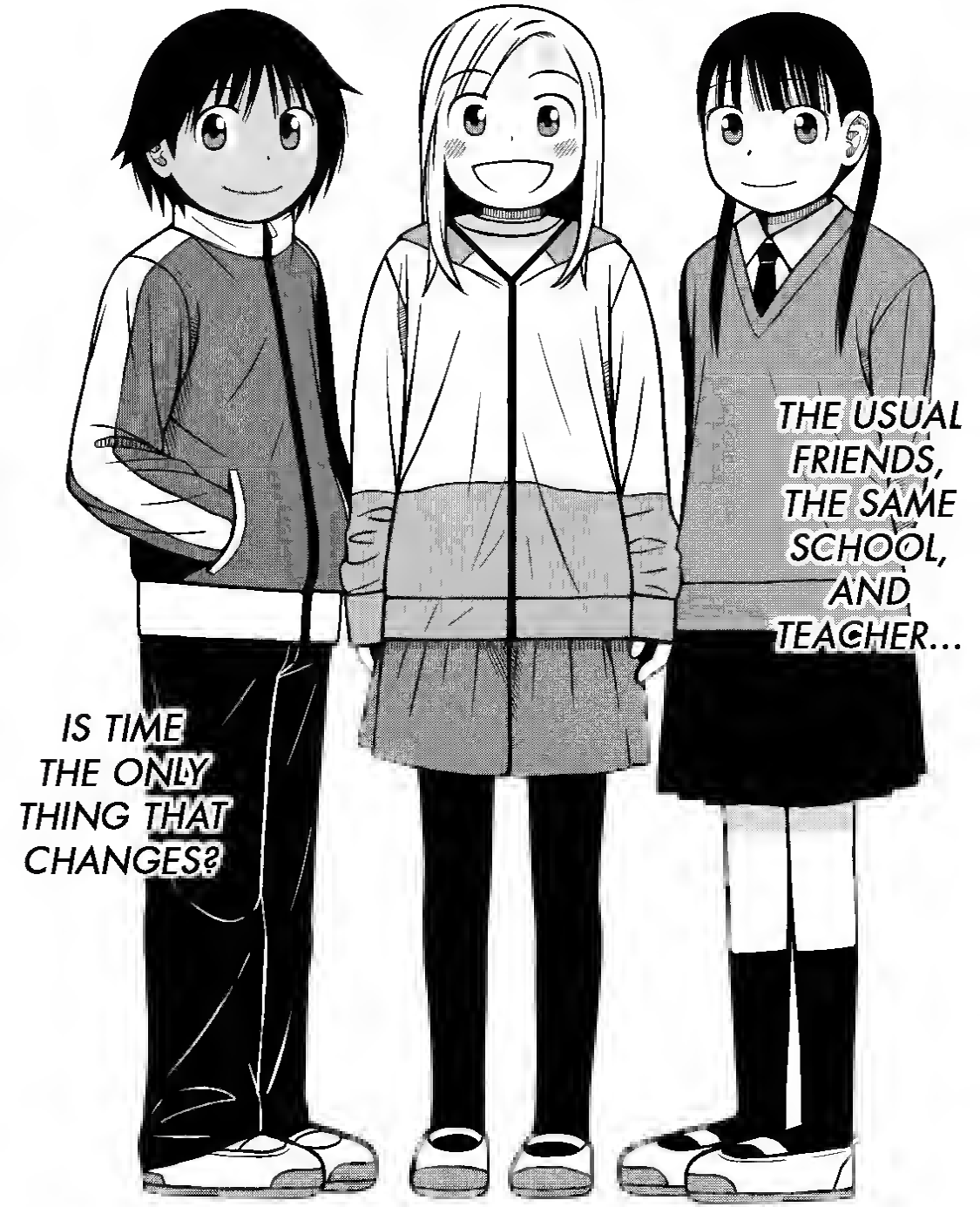

I SEE.
AND ARISA-CHAN SAID SHE'D MAKE SOMETHING WITH HER MOM AND BRING IT
MAKOTO-CHAN SAID SHE'D MAKE SANDWICH-ES AND BRING THEM,

AH.
NINA AND SHUTARO ARE GOING TO MAKE A LOT OF RICEBALLS TO BRING.

THANKS, TOMOE.
OKAY.
THEN I'LL MAKE SOME-THING TO BRING, TOO.
RAIN?!
雨!?
OH, YEAH.
WELL, WE CAN PLAN ALL WE WANT,
BUT IF IT RAINS, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO AN OHANAMI
WHAT'S A TERU-TERU BŌZU?
YOU COULD MAKE A TERU TERU BŌZU.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN REALLY DO ABOUT IT
DO SOME-THING?
SHUTARO, DO SOME-THING!

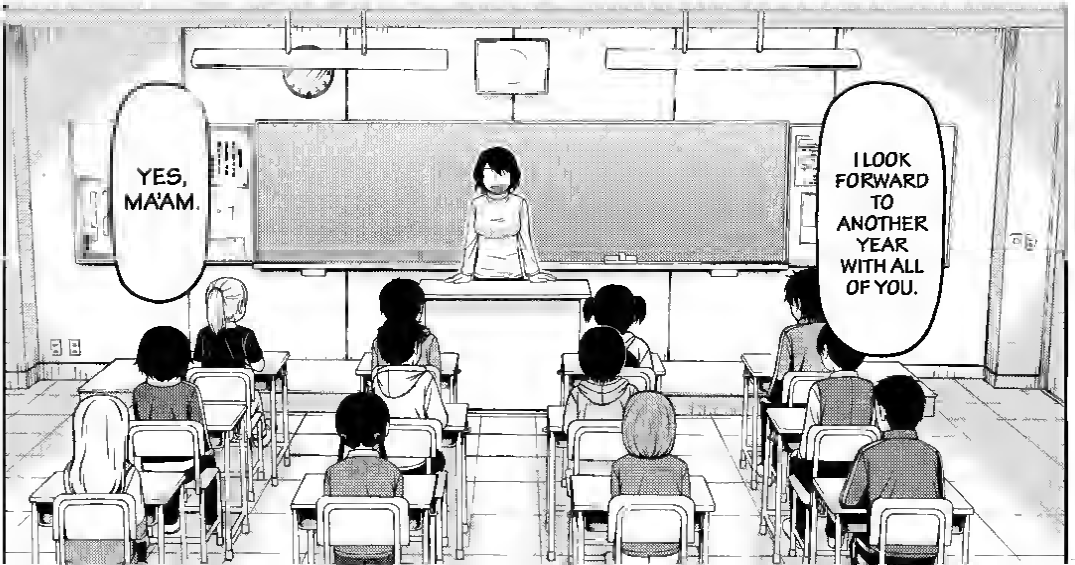
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'LL BE A FUN OHANAMI!

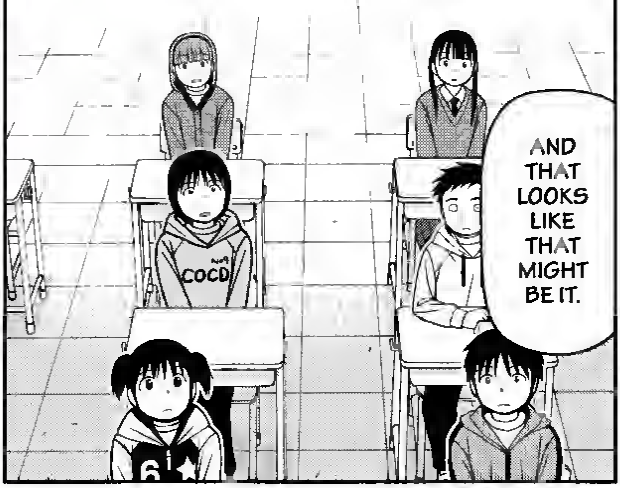
CHAPTER 70 THINGS THAT DON'T CHANGE, THINGS THAT DO CHANGE

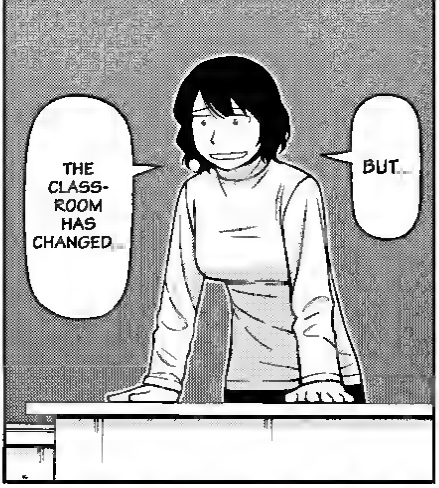


STARTING TODAY, EVERYONE'S IN 5TH GRADE!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE

I WILL BE YOUR FIFTH GRADE TEACHER
CONTINU-ING FROM LAST YEAR...


YES, MA'AM.
I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER YEAR WITH ALL OF YOU.


AND THAT LOOKS LIKE THAT MIGHT BE IT.


BUT...
THE CLASS-ROOM HAS CHANGED

OH?

SENSEI,
THAT'S OUR LINE.

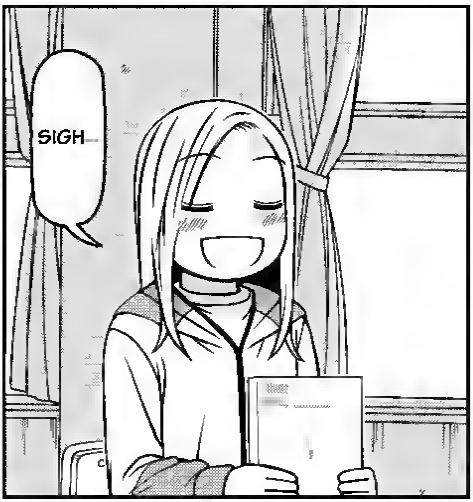
YES, MA'AM
はーい
ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING TO HAND OUT NEW TEXT-BOOKS,
SO PLEASE COME UP TO GET THEM.

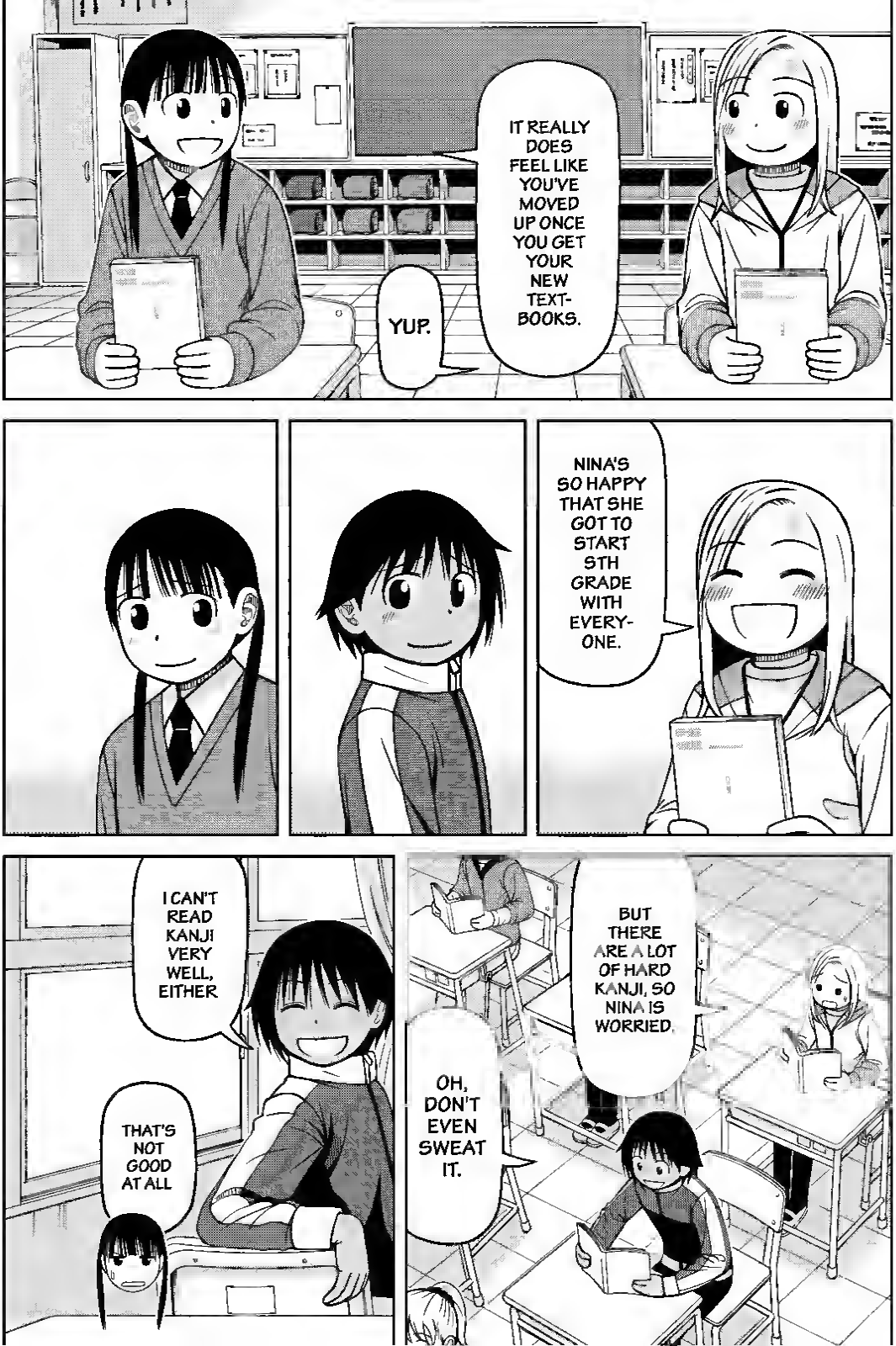
ALL RIGHT.
よし
IN ORDER FOR YOU TO FEEL LIKE YOU'VE BECOME 5TH GRADERS,
I'M GOING TO HAVE TAKAHASHI ANSWER A LOT OF HARD QUESTIONS
WHAT?
PLEASE, NO!

国語
JAPANESE
五 5

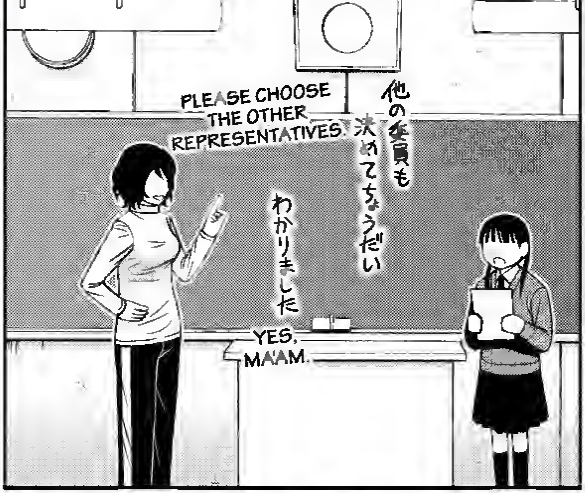
NEW TEXTBOOKS HAVE SUCH A MYSTERIOUS SMELL.
OH, TRUE.
I WONDER WHAT THAT SMELL IS.
インク?
INK?

スンスン
SNIFF
SNIFF


SIGH


IT REALLY DOES FEEL LIKE YOU'VE MOVED UP ONCE YOU GET YOUR NEW TEXT-BOOKS.
YUP.
NINA'S SO HAPPY THAT SHE GOT TO START 5TH GRADE WITH EVERY-ONE.
I CAN'T READ KANJI VERY WELL, EITHER
THAT'S NOT GOOD AT ALL
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF HARD KANJI, SO NINA IS WORRIED.
OH, DON'T EVEN SWEAT IT.

I'D LIKE TO CHOOSE THE CLASS PRESIDENT.
NEXT...
WHOOSH
IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE IT, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.
SO WE'RE ALL OKAY WITH KOHINATA BEING THE CLASS PRESIDENT?
はーい
YES, THAT'S FINE
問題ありませーん
ANY-ONE ELSE?
...
6
GIRL BEAT


PLEASE CHOOSE THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES.
他の委員も決めてちょうだい
わかりました
YES, MA'AM.

I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU THEN, KOHINATA.
YES, MA'AM

IT FEELS NORMAL, HAVING HER AS CLASS PRESIDENT.
MAKOTO-CHAN'S AMAZING
SHE BECAME CLASS PRESIDENT JUST LIKE THAT

NOW I'D LIKE TO DECIDE ON THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES.
ALL RIGHT...

ABE-SAN, COULD YOU HELP ME OUT A MOMENT?
YES
COCD
6

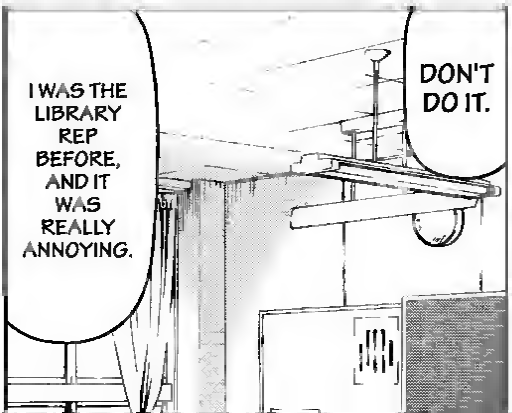
WHO ARE THE OTHERS?
LET'S SEE...
保健委員
THERE ARE A LOT OF DUTIES LIKE THAT.
LIKE THE LIBRARY REP, BROADCAST REP, AND ANIMAL CARETAKER REP.
SO,
REMEMBER WHEN YOU HURT YOUR KNEE AFTER FALLING, AND KOBAYASHI TOOK YOU TO THE INFIRMARY?
YEAH.
いたーい
OW!
YOU CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR LAST YEAR, SO YOU WEREN'T ASSIGNED ANYTHING.
YEAH.
THAT'S THE HEALTH REP.
WELL, BEING A REPRESENTATIVE IS A PAIN ANYWAY.
SO YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT BEING ONE.
...

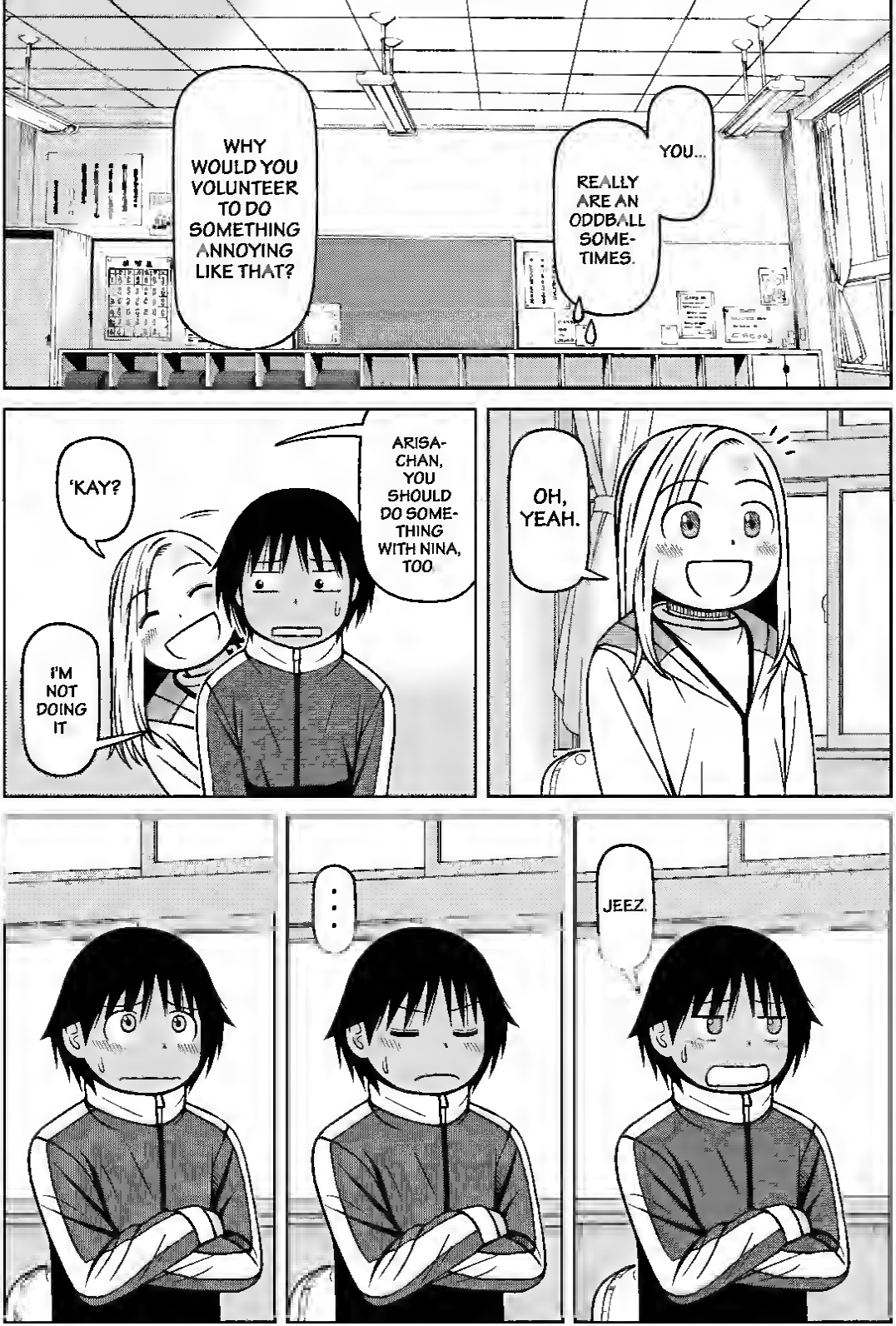
NINA WANTS TO REPRESENT SOMETHING!
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING, EITHER.

BUT NINA THINKS IT'D BE GREAT...
IF SHE COULD HELP OUT EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CLASS
HUH?

...

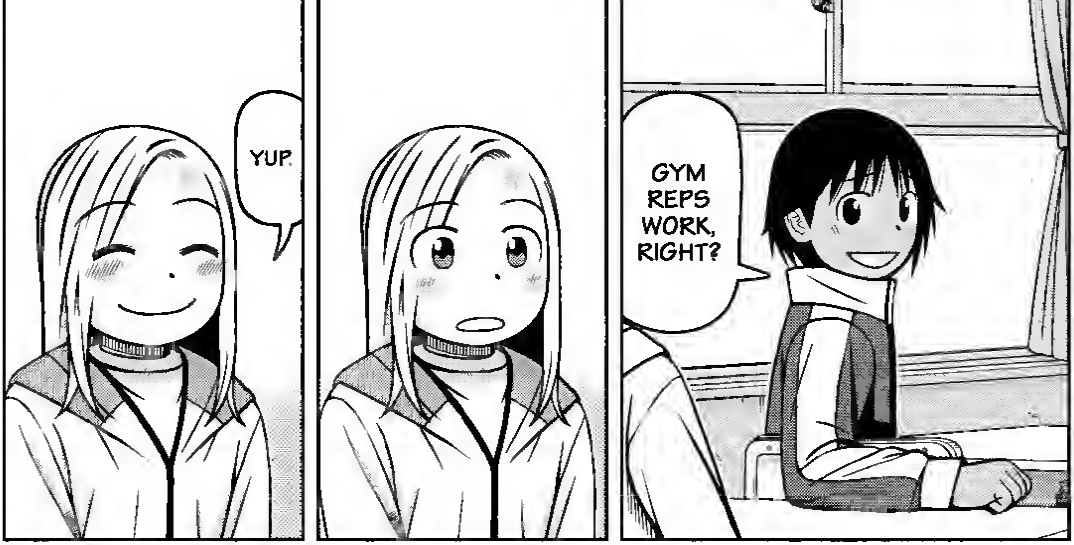
WHA?

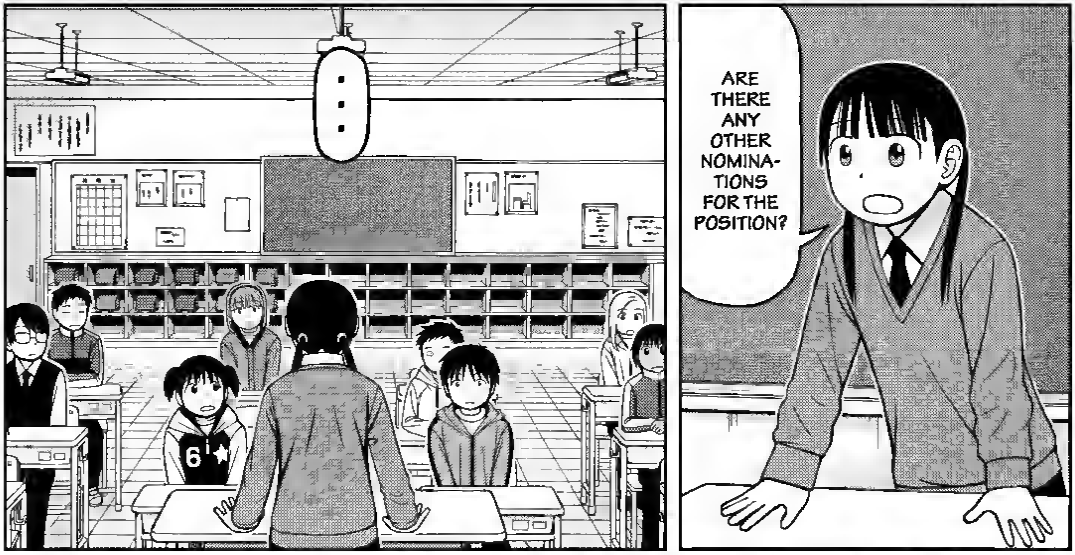

I WAS THE LIBRARY REP BEFORE, AND IT WAS REALLY ANNOYING.
DON'T DO IT.

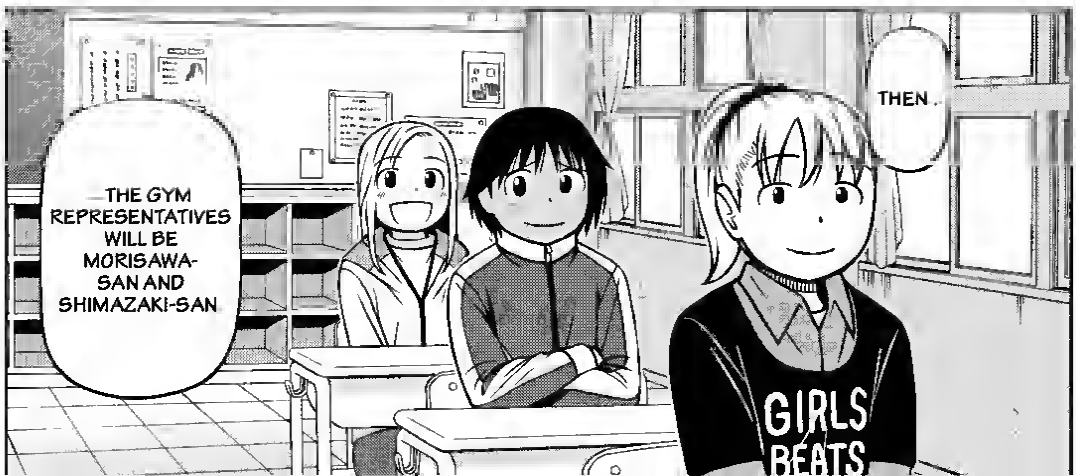

WHY WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO DO SOMETHING ANNOYING LIKE THAT?
YOU... REALLY ARE AN ODDBALL SOME-TIMES.
ARISA-CHAN, YOU SHOULD DO SOME-THING WITH NINA, TOO.
'KAY?
I'M NOT DOING IT
OH, YEAH.
...
JEEZ.

YES,
MORISAWA-SAN?
PRESIDENT!
GIRLS BEATS

...THE GYM REPRESENTA-TIVE WITH SHIMAZAKI-SAN.
I WOULD LIKE TO BE...


YUP.
GYM REPS WORK, RIGHT?


...
ARE THERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION?

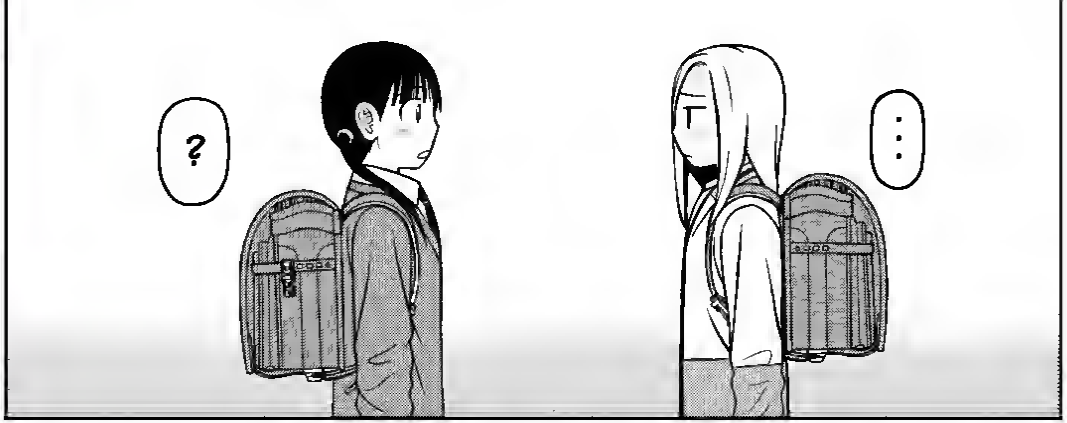

—THE GYM REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE MORISAWA-SAN AND SHIMAZAKI-SAN
THEN.
GIRLS

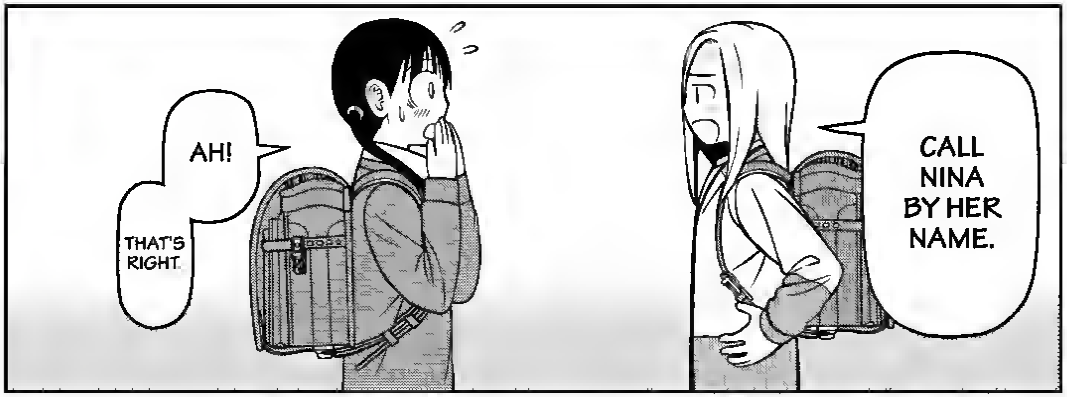
BROADCAST: HASEGAWA
保健
図書
体育
美化
放送
飼育
小林
森沢
長谷川
THE OTHER POSITIONS ARE...
SO...
THE LIBRARY REPS WILL BE HOSHINO-KUN AND KONDO-SAN.
WHAT?
THE ART REP WILL BE NAKAMURA-SAN
ME?
THE ANIMAL CARETAKER REP WILL BE TAKAHASHI-KUN
ME?
BROADCAST: HASEGAWA
飼育
放送
美化
体育
GYM: MORISAWA | SHIMAZAKI
森沢
WELL DONE, WELL DONE
DOES THAT SUFFICE?

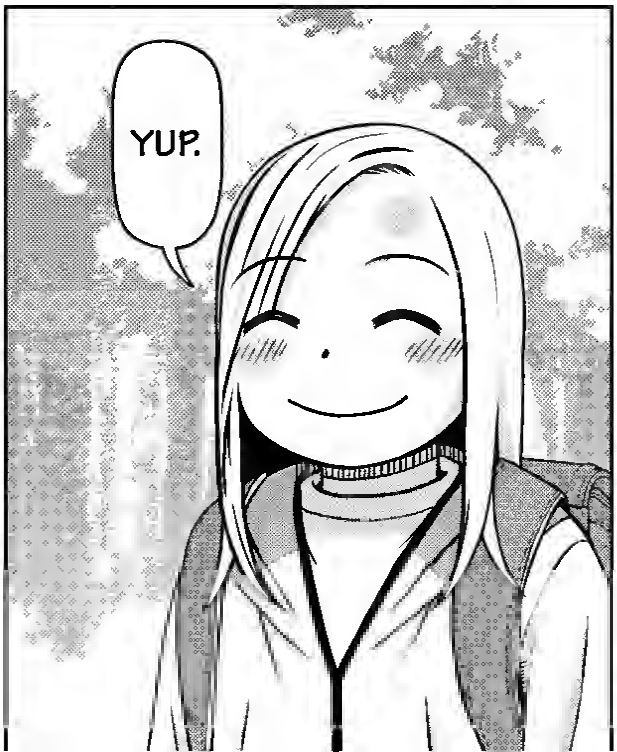
NOBODY HAD BETTER BRING ANY ANIMALS.
I'M THE ONE THAT'S GONNA HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM.
MAYBE I'LL BRING MY GOLDFISH TOMORROW.
AHAHAHA
あはは
PLEASE, NO.
WE WILL NOW DECIDE THE ROTATION OF LUNCH AND CLEANING DUTIES.
YES, MA'AM
はーい
DING キーン
DONG コーン
DING カーン
DONG コーン

I WAS SURPRISED THAT YOU ACTUALLY VOLUNTEERED TO BE A GYM REP BACK THERE.
YOU ALWAYS FIND DOING STUFF LIKE THAT TO BE A PAIN.
NINA SAID SHE WANTED TO DO IT WITH ME, SO...
WHAT DO GYM REPS DO?
WE BRING OUT AND PUT AWAY THE EQUIPMENT FOR GYM CLASS.
ボールとか
飛び箱とかさ
LIKE BALLS AND VAULT BOXES.
YOU AND I BOTH LIKE P.E., SO IT'S PERFECT, RIGHT?
YUP.

BUT CARRYING AROUND MATS IS SO TIRING.
THEY ARE HEAVY, AND THEY STINK.
NINA LIKES THAT SMELL.
NO WAY!
REALLY?
YOU REALLY ARE WEIRD, NINA.
AWW...
I'M SURE IT'LL BE TOUGH, BUT PLEASE DO YOUR BEST...
SHIMAZAKI-SAN.

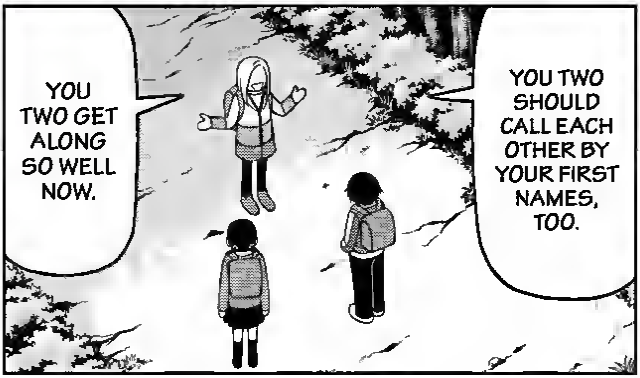

?
...

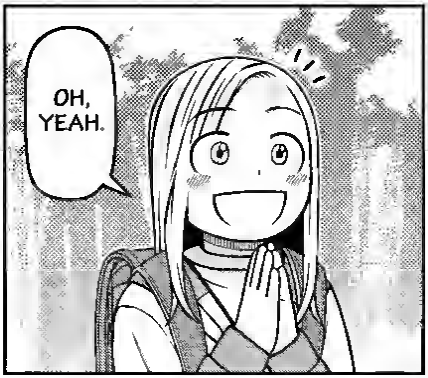

AH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
CALL NINA BY HER NAME.

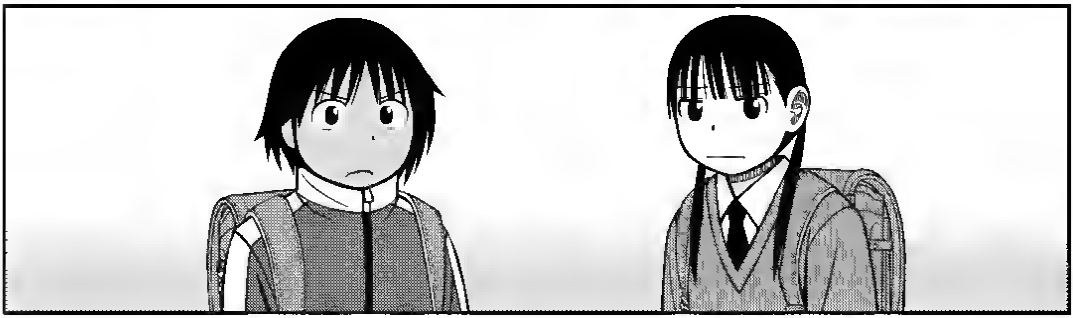

YUP.

...

DO YOUR BEST, NINA.







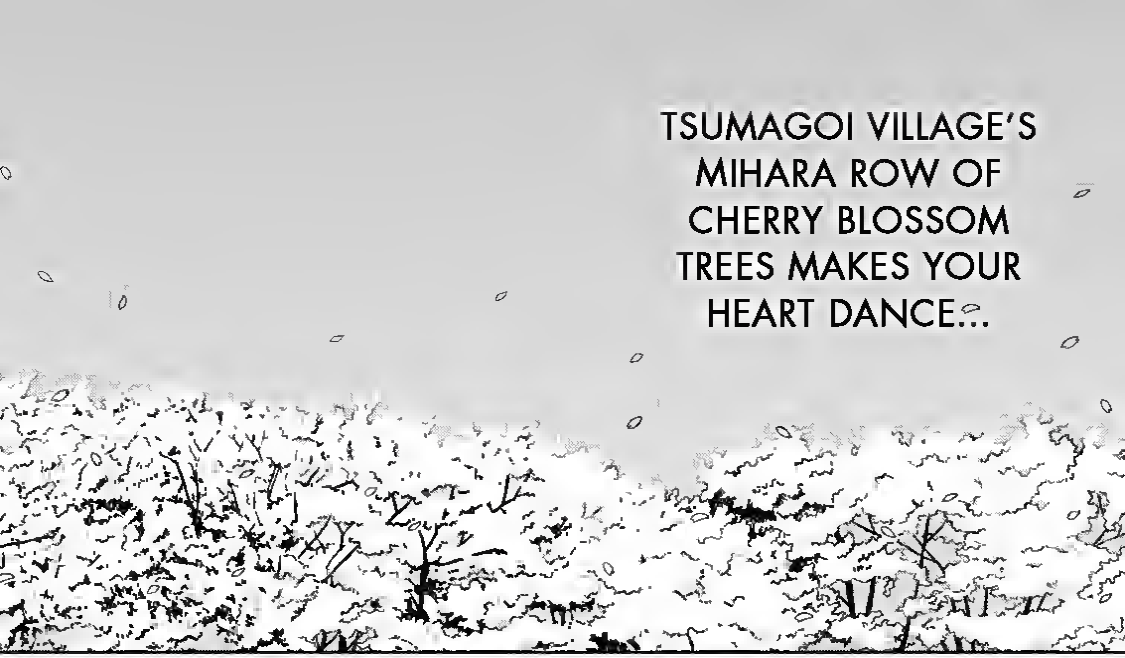
IN THE NEXT CHAPTER, EVERYONE'S GOING OUT!

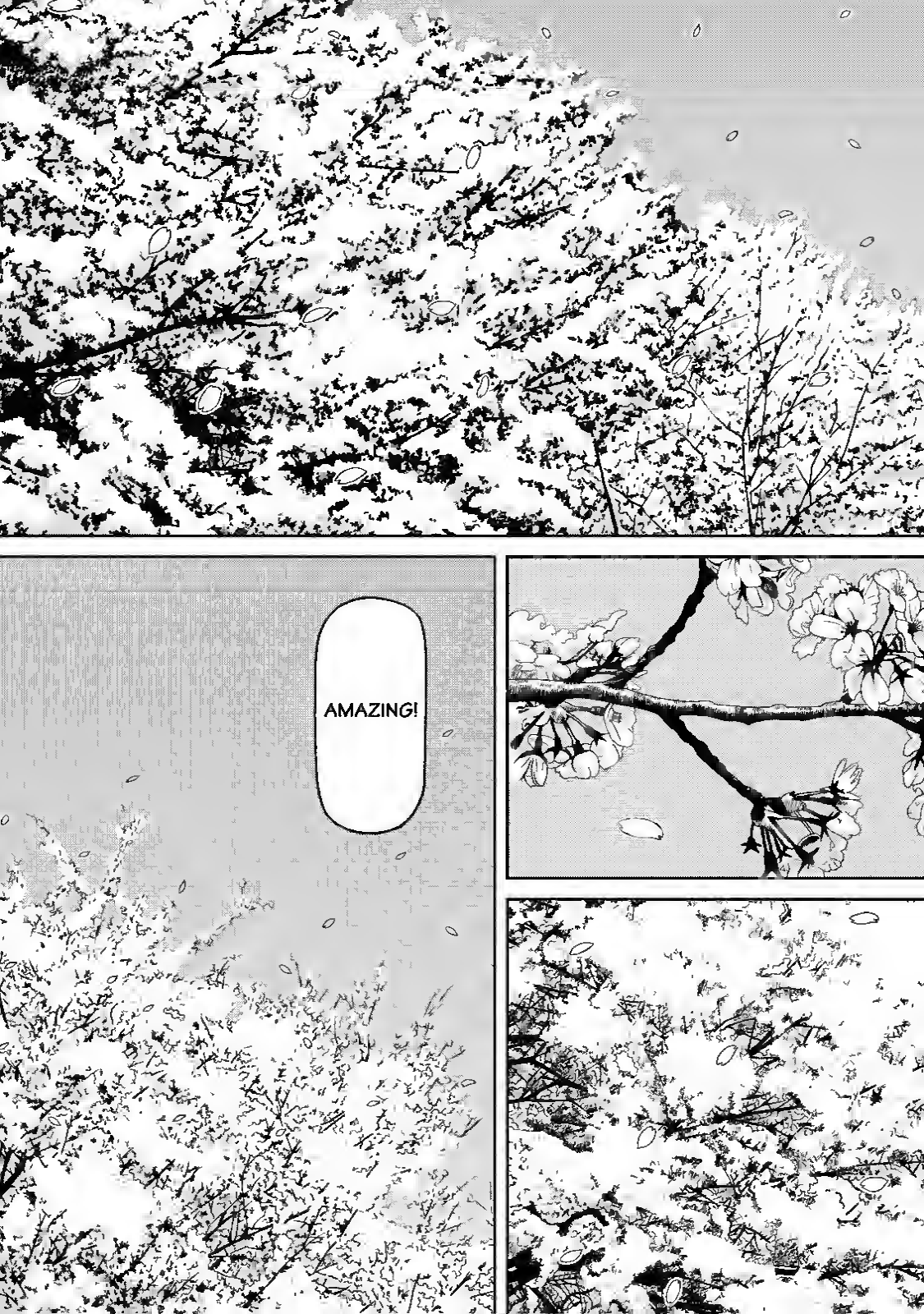
CHAPTER 71

UNDERNEATH THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS

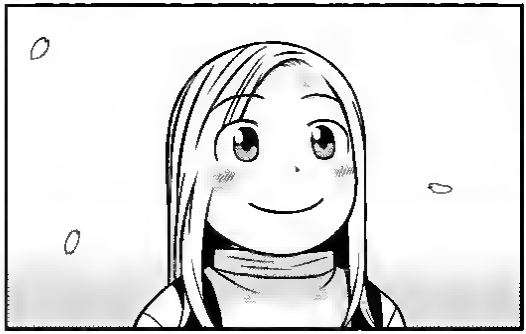
IT'S FUN TO JUST WATCH THE FALLING FLOWER PETALS AND THE SHINING SUN...

TSUMAGOI VILLAGE'S MIHARA ROW OF CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES MAKES YOUR HEART DANCE...




AMAZING!

WOW.
THEY'RE IN FULL BLOOM.
AREN'T THEY PRETTY?
YUP.

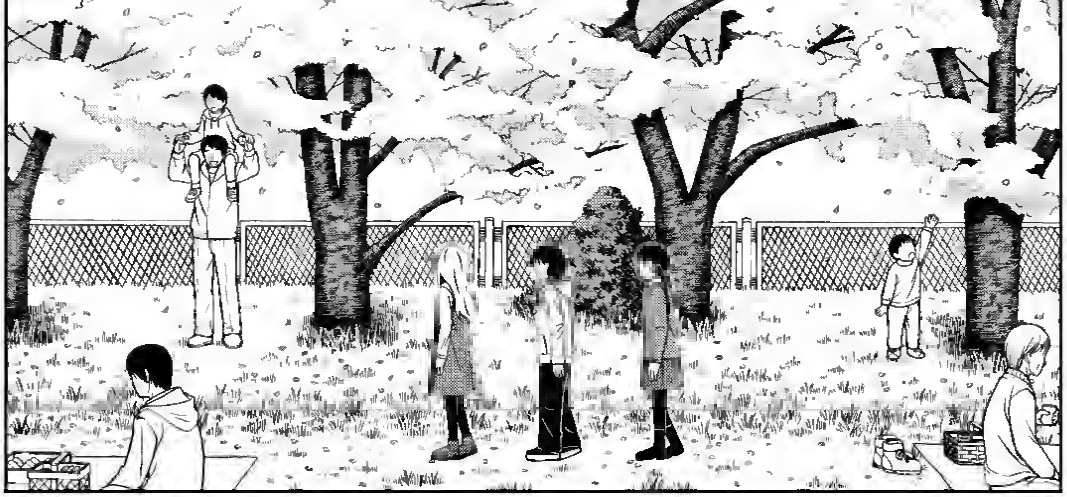


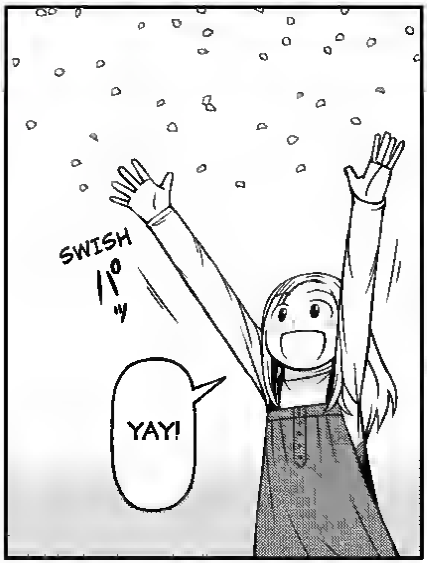
WELL, NINA?
HAS SEEING YOUR FIRST CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES MOVED YOU?

NINA IS SO, SO...
...SO MOVED!

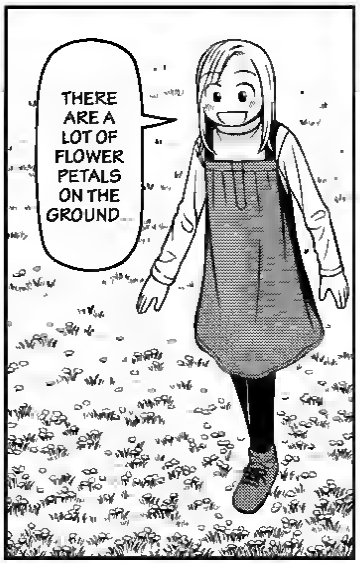
IT'S GREAT THAT IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE PERFECT DAY FOR OHANAMI.
YUP.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, TOO.
TOMOE AND I WILL MAKE A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO EAT LUNCH...
...SO YOU GUYS CAN GO PLAY NEARBY.
OKAY.
LET'S GO,
ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN
YEAH.
WELL, LET'S GET STARTED.
OKAY.

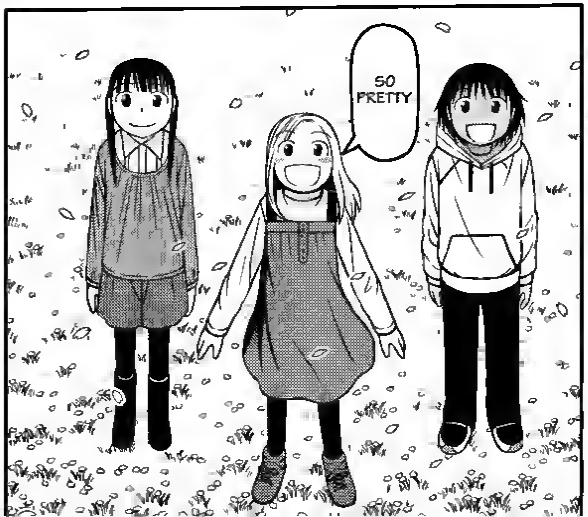
WHOOSH
YUP
WELL...
THIS SHOULD DO
I THINK IT'S GOOD

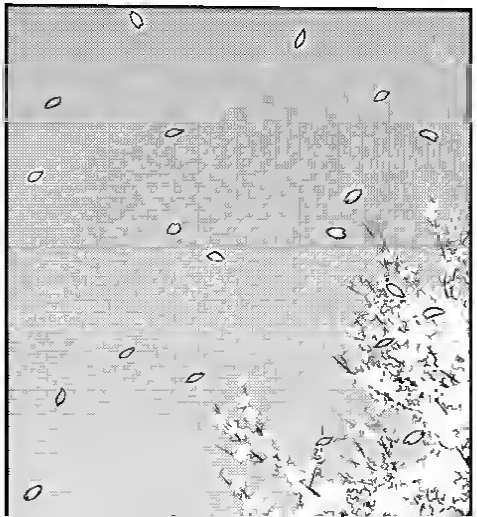



SWISH
YAY!

SCOOP


THERE ARE A LOT OF FLOWER PETALS ON THE GROUND

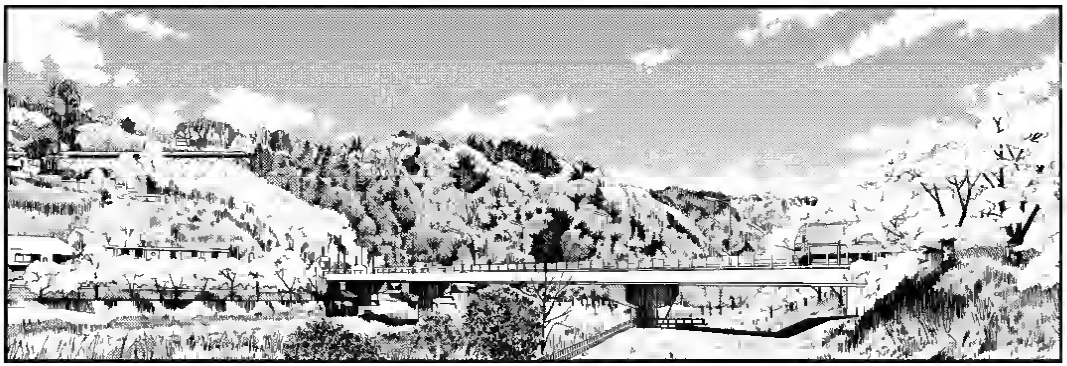

SO PRETTY



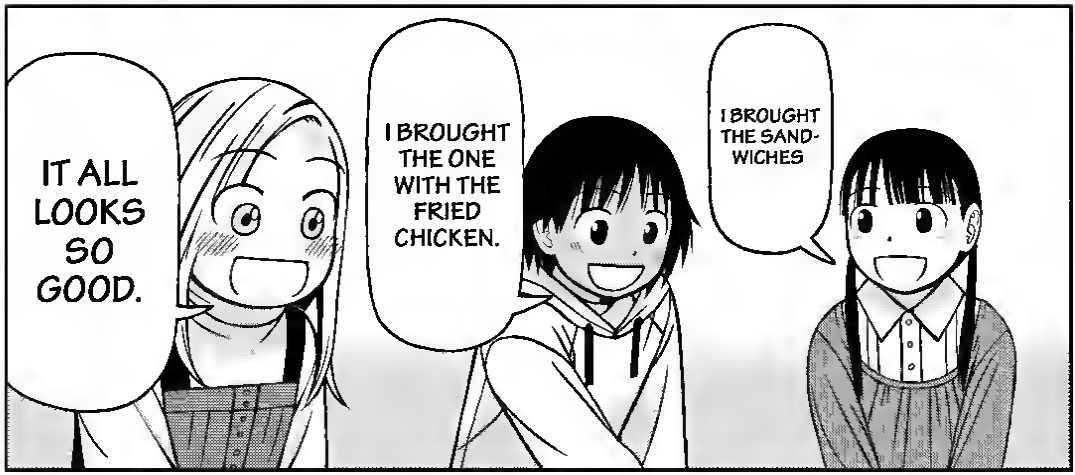
HEY, NINA.
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
WHAT IS IT, ARISA-CHAN?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT TOMOE GIRL?
IS THAT SHUTARO'S GIRL-FRIEND?
HUH?
TOMOE IS SHUTARO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND
AH...
おさなじみ...
CHILDHOOD FRIEND, HUH.
BUT NINA'S PRETTY SURE THEY'RE GONNA GET MARRIED.
...
YOU IDIOT!
YOU SHOULDN'T ASK ABOUT SUCH PRIVATE THINGS!
YOU HAVE NO TACT.
デリカシーないわねっ
WELL, YOU'RE CURIOUS, TOO, AREN'T YOU?
UM...

I WONDER IF SHE'S HIS FIANCÉE, THEN?
SEE? THEY TOTALLY ARE GOING OUT.

?
THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS, SO...
WH-WHO KNOWS?
BUT I WONDER IF THEY CAN GET MARRIED WHEN SHUTARO-SAN IS UNEMPLOYED

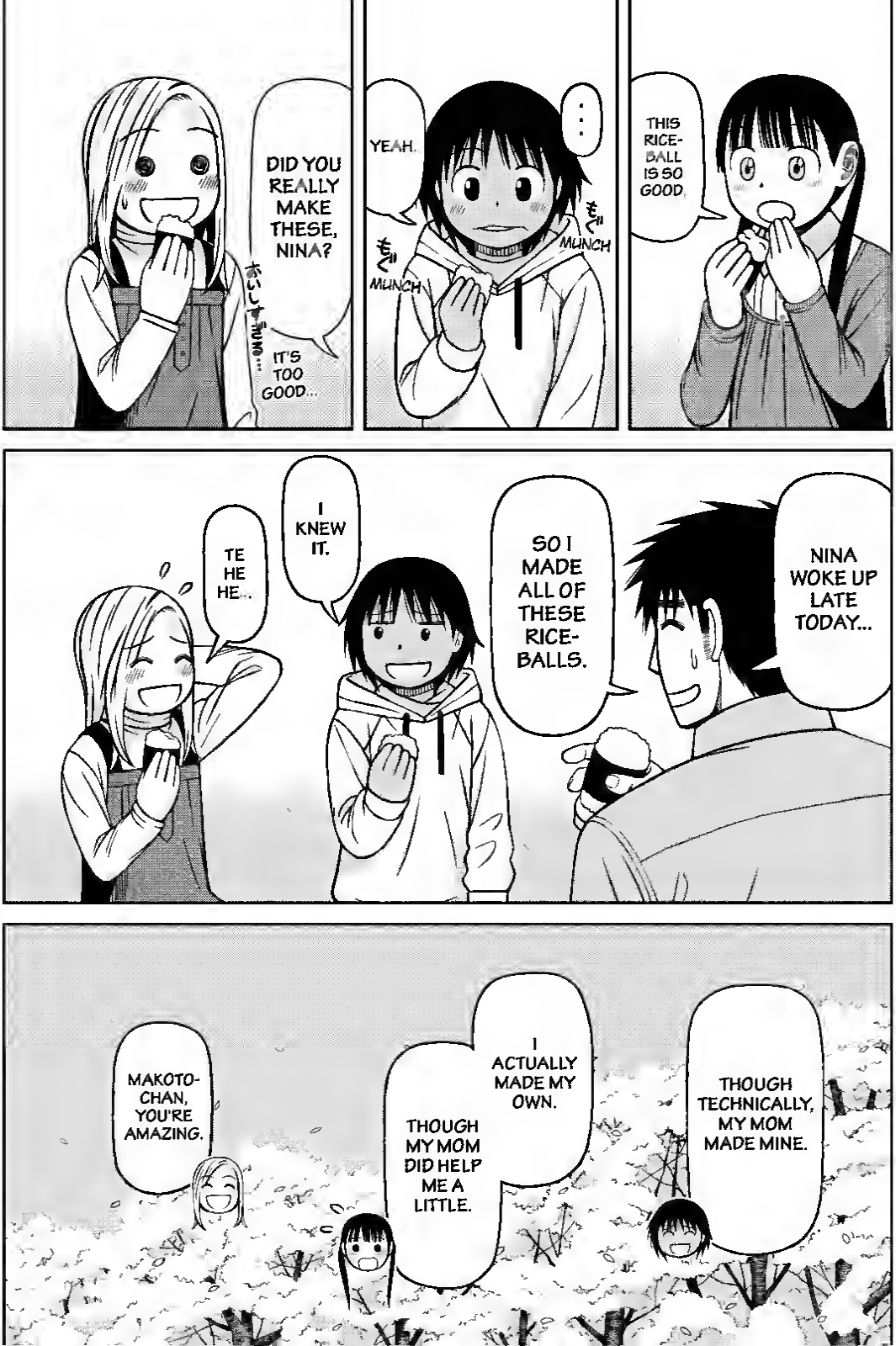


WOW!

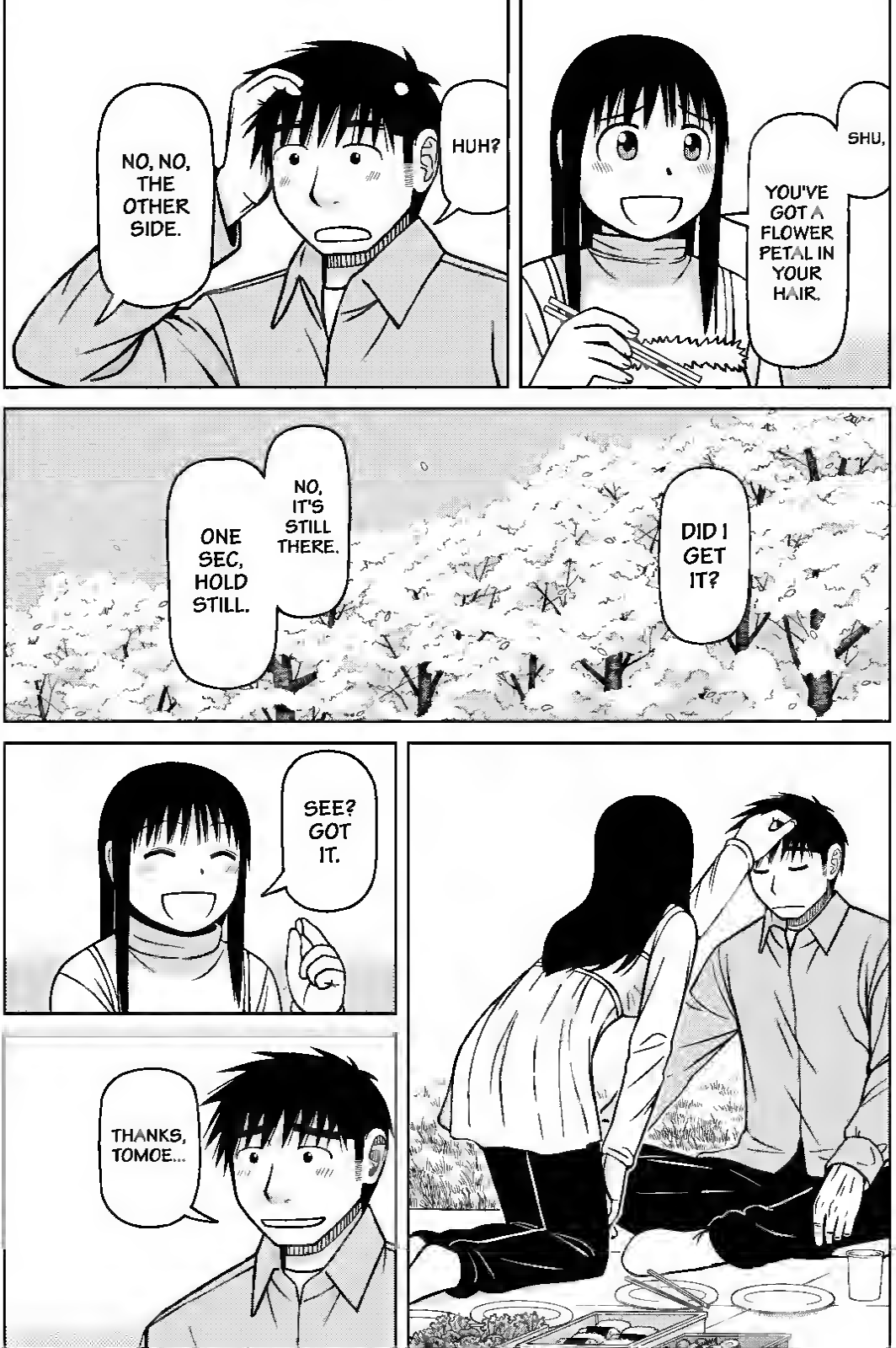

I BROUGHT THE SAND-WICHES
I BROUGHT THE ONE WITH THE FRIED CHICKEN.
IT ALL LOOKS SO GOOD.

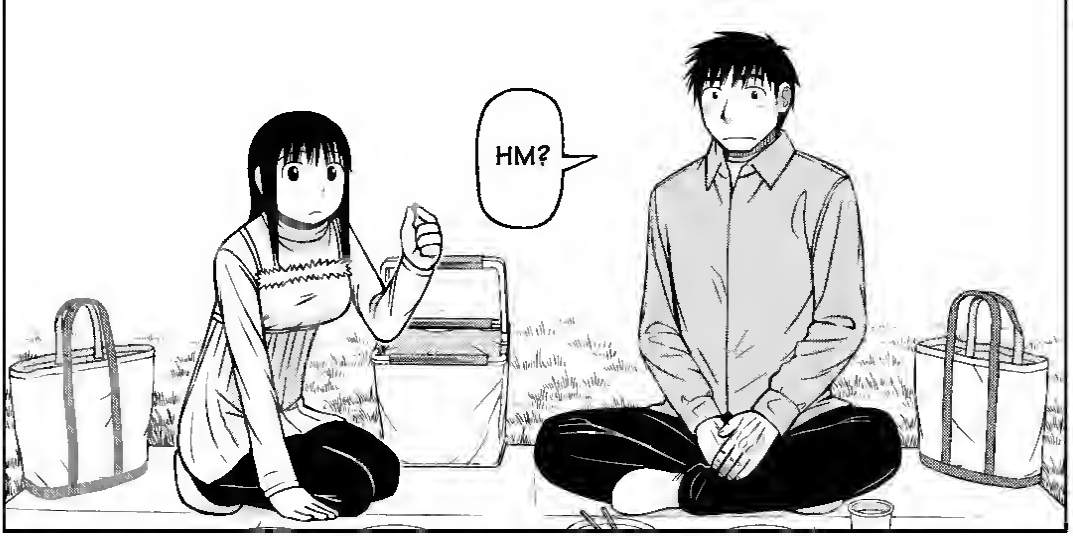
LET'S EAT!

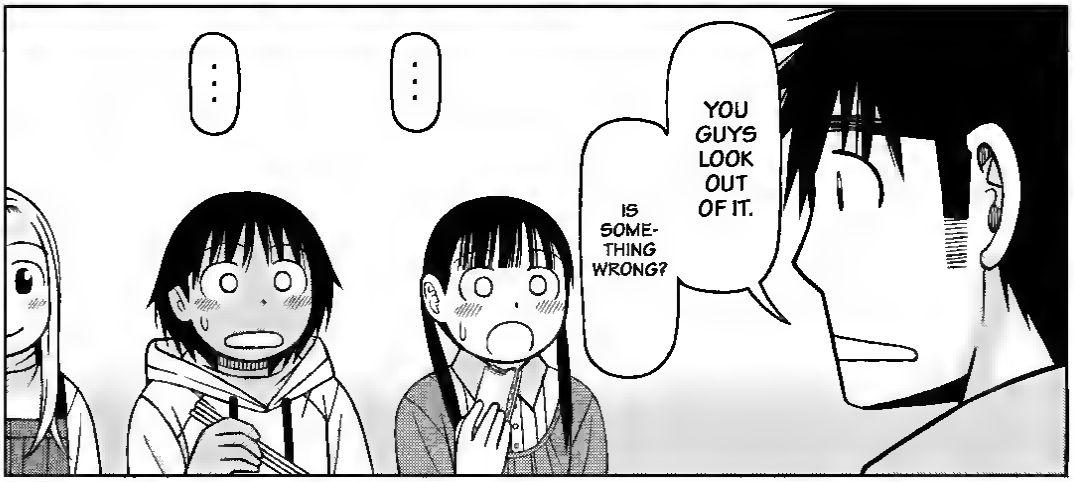
WELL, LET'S DIG IN.
YEAH.


THIS RICE-BALL IS SO GOOD.
もぐ MUNCH
...
YEAH.
もぐ MUNCH
DID YOU REALLY MAKE THESE, NINA?
おいしすぎる... IT'S TOO GOOD...
NINA WOKE UP LATE TODAY...
SO I MADE ALL OF THESE RICE-BALLS.
I KNEW IT.
TE HE HE...
THOUGH TECHNICALLY, MY MOM MADE MINE.
I ACTUALLY MADE MY OWN.
THOUGH MY MOM DID HELP ME A LITTLE.
MAKOTO-CHAN, YOU'RE AMAZING.

AH.

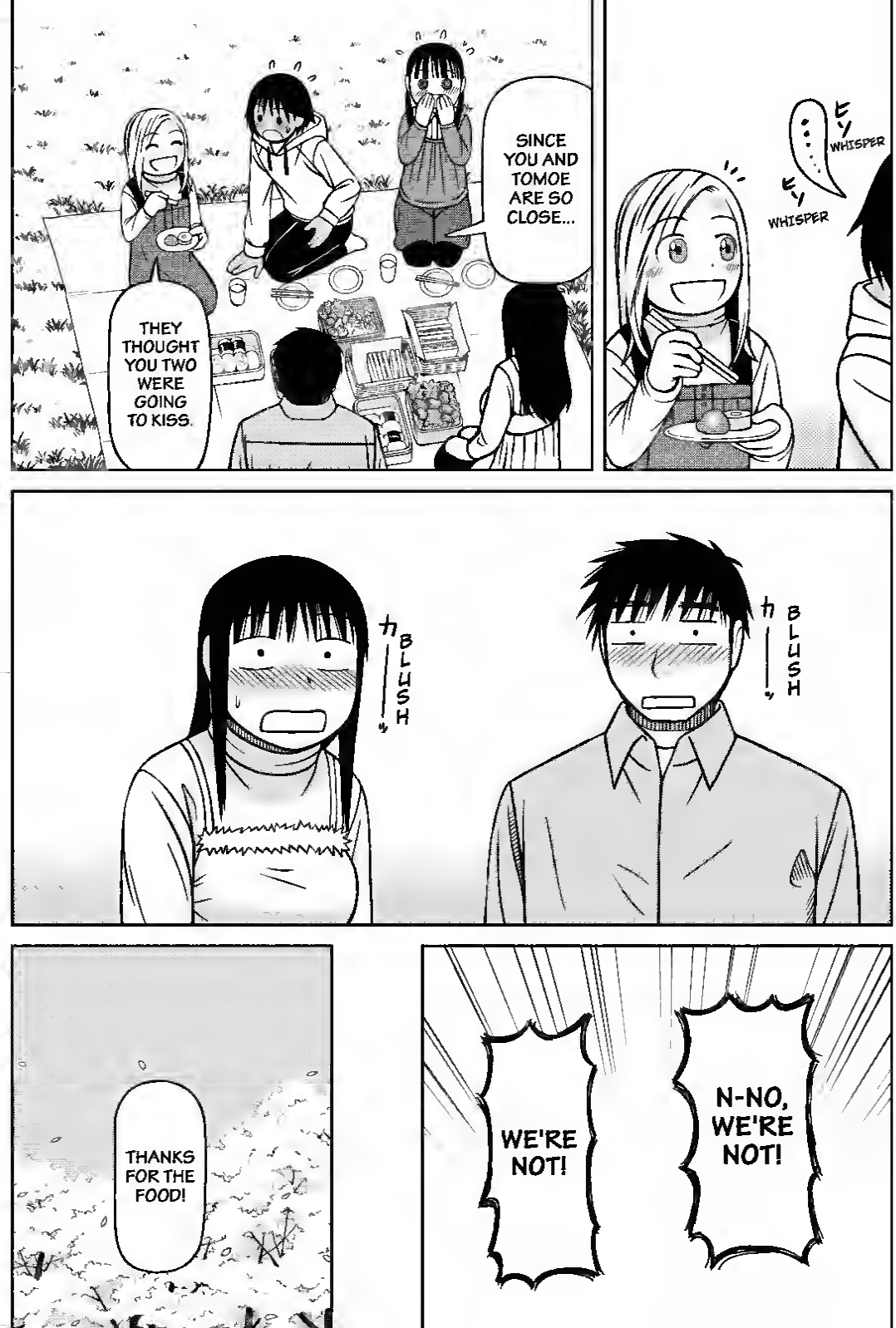

SHU, YOU'VE GOT A FLOWER PETAL IN YOUR HAIR.
HUH?
NO, NO, THE OTHER SIDE.
DID I GET IT?
NO, IT'S STILL THERE.
ONE SEC, HOLD STILL.
SEE? GOT IT.
THANKS, TOMOE...


HM?


YOU GUYS LOOK OUT OF IT.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?

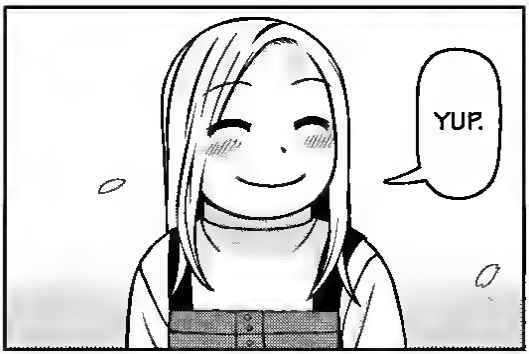
WHISPER
I WAS EMBAR-RASSED JUST WATCH-ING.
WHISPER
I WAS CERTAIN THEY WERE GOING TO KISS.
WHISPER
WHISPER

NO, IT'S NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL

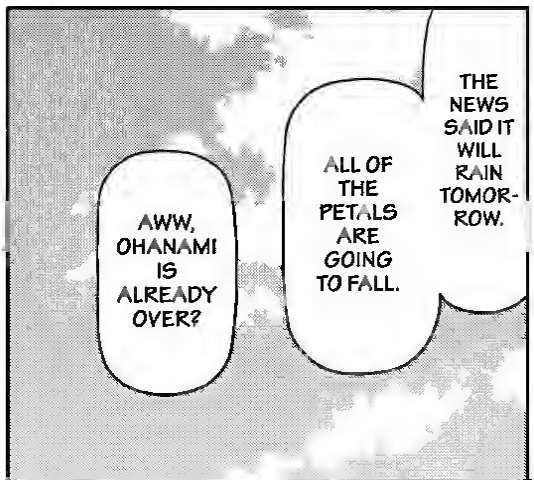

SINCE YOU AND TOMOE ARE SO CLOSE...
THEY THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE GOING TO KISS.
ヒソ WHISPER
ヒソ WHISPER
カー BLUSH
カー BLUSH
N-NO, WE'RE NOT!
WE'RE NOT!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

CAN I JOIN YOU?
私も入っていい？
OF COURSE
いいですよ
LET'S ALL PLAY WITH THIS.
みんなでこれで遊ぼうぜ
WHOA, IT'S HIGH!
わっ、たかいっ
THERE!
それっ

DID YOU HAVE FUN AT THE OHANAMI?


YUP.

UH..
LET'S COME HERE AGAIN.
IT WAS LOTS AND LOTS OF FUN.


AWW, OHANAMI IS ALREADY OVER?
ALL OF THE PETALS ARE GOING TO FALL.
THE NEWS SAID IT WILL RAIN TOMOR-ROW.

WHY'S THAT?
TODAY'S PROBABLY THE LAST DAY WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO OHANAMI.

THAT'S A LITTLE SAD...
I THINK THAT SINCE YOU CAN ONLY SEE IT FOR A BIT...
IT ACTUALLY SEEMS EVEN MORE SPECIAL.
OH, YEAH.
THEN WE HAVE NEXT YEAR TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
YEAH.
LET'S DO OHANAMI NEXT YEAR, TOO.
YEAH.